September/October 2012
Volume 28 Issue 5

P&SN

POLICE AND SECURITY NEWS

The Information Source for Law Enforcement and Homeland Security

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The Online Police Academy

Product Highlight: HANDGUNS & ACCESSORIES

NEW LASER SPEED DEVICES:

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Contents

September/
October
2012

EDITORIAL FOCUS:
Computer Hardware/Software Technology

35 Cloud Computing 101: The Basics
Bill Siuru, Ph.D., PE
There is a revolution going on in the computer world and it's called cloud computing.

37 Dedicated Short Range Communications
Bill Siuru, Ph.D., PE
DSRC utilizes vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-roadside communications technology for enhancing transportation safety and improving highway efficiency.

41 PoliceOne.com's Online Academy
Richard Johnson
The next generation version of the PoliceOne Academy Online Training Platform is now available with over 400 short format training courses and a repository of 500 training videos.

FEATURES

46 Micro-Nines: The Snubs of the 21st Century
Mike Boyle
Concealed carry handguns used by today's law enforcers are very different from that of a generation ago. In the not so distant past, rookie cops saved their lunch money in order to buy a snub revolver for off duty carry.

53 New Laser Speed Devices: An Analysis of Performance and Features
Carl Fors
"I've Got A Budget Of $18,000 For Laser Guns...What Should I Buy?"

58 Training to Avoid Handgun-ECD Confusion
John G. Peters, Jr., Ph.D., CLS
Under stress, officers have previously mistaken their firearm for their TASER®, resulting in tragic consequences. What steps can be taken to prevent these types of misjudgments from taking place?

COLUMNS

6 FOCUS ON TECHNOLOGY
8 ...AND NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH.
12 JUST ASK MIKE...
15 LEGAL UPDATE
17 PRODUCT HIGHLIGHT
18 TACTICAL TRAINING TIPS & TOOLS
26 ABOVE AND BEYOND...
29 THE WHEELS OF JUSTICE
63 IN SEARCH OF INTELLIGENT LIFE
64 NEW TECHNOLOGY

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The **Tuck-This® II** IWB holster is made from heavily padded 1050D black ballistic nylon and its belt tab can swing to accommodate almost any wearable position.

Due to their viscous exterior materials, the **Nemesis** and the **Super Fly**® will not move out of position inside your pocket.

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New LED Flashlight

Shore Power, Inc. now offers the **SUNWAYMAN® V11R**, a 500 lumen LED flashlight with a tough aerospace-grade aluminum alloy body. The patented Magnetic Control System (MCS) allows you to regulate its fully variable circuit to output anything from a dim glow (one lumen) to full brightness at 500 lumens. With its ability to tail stand, this flashlight can be used as a secondary lighting source.

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New Female Concealable Body Armor

Point Blank's new **SP+2FLE** (NIJ .06 Level II) ballistic model for female officers offers the combination of protection and round-the-clock comfort. Lightweight, thin and flexible, the **SP+2FLE** (when paired with Protective Products' Trilhouette carrier system) features an ergonomic design which follows the natural curvature of the female torso while maintaining optimal protective coverage. The Trilhouette carrier incorporates PPE's unique three-piece panel technology to provide a formfitting front panel, resulting in a safe, reliable, comfortably fitting concealable vest.

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New Shirts from TRU-SPEC®

TRU-SPEC has added **two redesigned 24-7 Series® shirts** to their line. With contemporary styling and traditional function, a brand-new, lightweight 4.25 oz., 65/35 polyester cotton ripstop, ultratough material helps to make these two favorites even more comfortable and more versatile than ever.

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Point Blank's Maverick Crossover Carrier

Tested to exceed the requirements of NIJ, DEA and FBI protocols, the AIIIA-1 Tri-compliant ballistic model offers a high level of protection while providing the lightest weight protective coverage available – at only 0.98 psf. When combined with Point Blank's **Maverick Crossover Carrier**, this body armor system offers load bearing capabilities with functionality, comfort and performance. An officer can instantly convert the **Maverick** into a protective vest with up to Level IIIA protection by inserting concealable ballistic panels.

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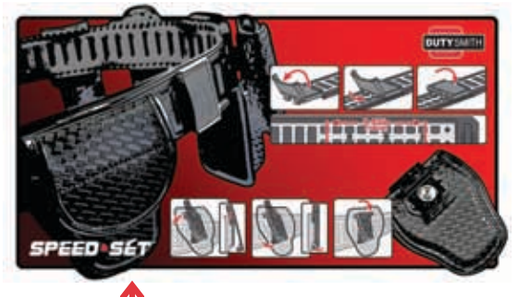

New Duty Belt

The **SpeedSet** duty belt, from Duty Smith, offers unmatched comfort without hot spots or pinch points. With the unique design of the belt, it conforms to the user, regardless of their shape or size; can be resized quickly; and has more space on it than other duty belts.

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New Charged Cotton T-shirts

Under Armour has introduced a line of **Charged Cotton® HeatGear® T-shirts** which combine the comfort of cotton with the moisture-wicking abilities of HeatGear. The **T-shirts** dry much faster than ordinary cotton; feature durable stitch shoulder detailing for durability; are made of 100% cotton; and are available in a number of colors, all with a matching nondescript tactical logo.

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New Duty Uniform

Blauer's new **B.DU** (Blauer Duty Uniform) is designed to offer the comfort and versatility of a classic BDU with improved appearance and functionality for use as a duty uniform. Standout features include extra breathable ripstop fabric; an athletic cut; articulated knees for a full range of motion; stretch mesh panels for breathability and comfort; and multiple hidden pockets for additional equipment storage.

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New Outerwear

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New Federal Tactical Outer Carrier

The new **Federal Tactical Outer Carrier** (FTOC), from Point Blank, is engineered to have greater agility, speed and performance. This carrier system is constructed of a new hybrid material called PV® (Pluma Vires) which offers more than seven to ten times the abrasion strength of standard Mil-Spec Cordura® nylon. The **FTOC** also features integrated side plate pockets, an internal spacer mesh system, adjustable shoulder and torso, and scalable ballistic accessories, among other key options.

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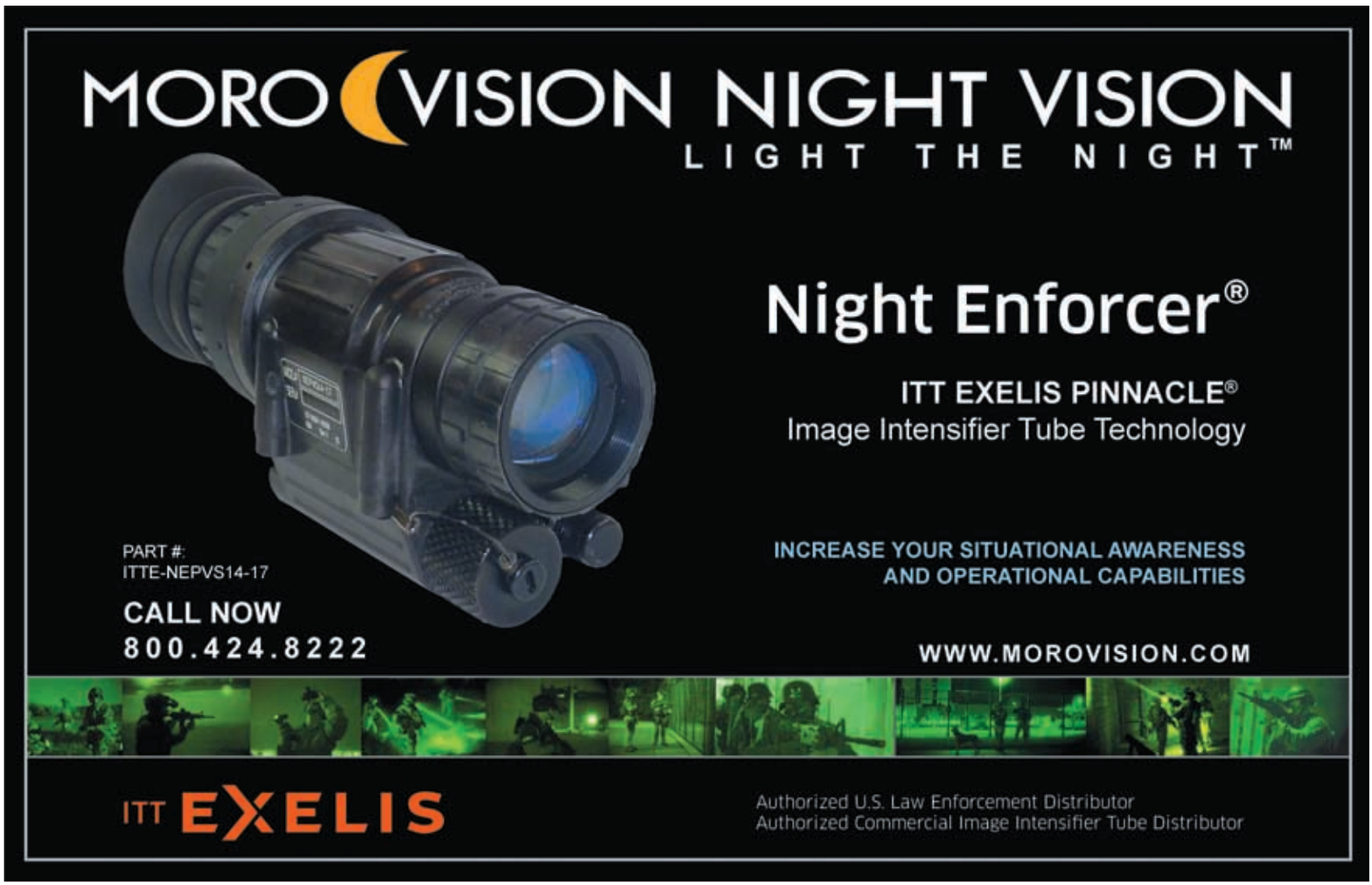

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...and nothing but the truth.

Ramesh Nyberg

"DAMAGED"

Understanding and responding to the problems involving the mentally ill tend to be both challenging and difficult to manage.

"ZZ Top" wasn't there today. I call him ZZ Top because he has a long, white beard and, one day, I saw him wearing sunglasses. It seems that everything ZZ owns has been given to him by passers-by.

ZZ Top, who is about 70 years old, sits on a milk crate at the intersection of SW 152nd Street and the entrance ramp to Florida's turnpike. He is clearly one of Miami's "homeless," though I've learned, as many of you have, that most of them are not "homeless" at all, just, well...mentally ill. ZZ doesn't actively beg, or panhandle, or walk around with a sign telling you he can work. Instead, he sits on the milk crate, his head tottering in Parkinson's-like futility, and mutters. He glances around as if something of substance will come his way, jabbering soundlessly about who knows what.

Passing ZZ on a daily basis threw me back to my days in uniform when dealing with mentally ill people was something you did at least once a week, maybe more. I started my career in a tiny ghetto town called Opa-Locka. This place had more than its share of "crazy" people and one of them was Susie Howard, a 72-year-old lady who lived alone – at least when she wasn't with her boyfriend, Gene.

"He takes them rooster pills," she crowed to me one day, "..keeps me bouncin' all over the bed!" I don't know who made the "rooster pills," but if they could have predicted the future, they might have put Viagra® out of business.

Susie called us for every little thing and many times she said she was dying. She cussed us when we tried to tell her she was all right. When I was brand new on the job, I got a call to her house – she was going to kill herself. I found her standing in her front yard, smiling.

"You one of them new police-s, ain't you?" she asked me. "I ain't never seen you before."

"Yes, ma'am, I'm new on the department."

"What yo' name is?" she demanded.

"Nyberg," I said.

She frowned and looked at the ground for a moment. "*Night*-bird?! What you doin' flyin' around in the *daytime*?"

Those of you who have been in law enforcement for any length of time know what my new nickname was, right?

All joking aside – at least for a moment or two – law enforcement and the mentally ill have been on a collision course for centuries. We just never knew it. People have always done "bad" things, things which violated public normalcy and, eventually, statutes and we locked them up. We did this for the public good and I still think that's the right thing to do. But, later, much later...*now*, perhaps, we have learned much criminal behavior is related to mental illness.

Don't get me wrong. I'll be the last one to "excuse" criminal behavior. I was a homicide investigator for 21 years and I saw the suffering of the victims' families in greater doses than I ever wished for or imagined. Looking back at all those cases and at the incidents I encountered as a uniformed patrolman, I realize that there is an undeniable connection between mental illness and crime. What is criminal behavior? Taken at its most basic form, it is irrational: I am going to do something I know is prohibited by society, but I will do it anyway. And, *that* is where the cutoff, the disconnect or whatever you want to call it, occurs.

Most of us would stop and say, "Whoa, wait a second. What happens *after* I jimmy this door, go in, and take the jewelry from the master bathroom vanity? Could a neighbor see me? If not, won't there be an investigation? Won't they find my prints all over the place?"

The mentally ill, for some reason, are robbed of this very valuable step in what doctors call "cognitive thinking." One thing leads to another and

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every action has a consequence and, based on all of that, I make the best possible decision.

You've seen it over and over and so have I. People with normal "IQs" and seemingly average backgrounds commit crimes – not once, but multiple times. Clearly, the scope of "mental illness" is more far-reaching than any of us, including all the experts with "Ph.D." after their names, could conceive. Many of them, like Ted Bundy, believed that they were superior to all of us (my take, anyway). He thought he could outsmart everyone. Is that "mental illness"?

Criminal behavior should never be "excused." It should be punished. Criminal behavior which occurs as a result of a mental illness might circumvent the criminal justice system in the event that a judge deems the person "incompetent to stand trial." But, should they be "excused" outright?

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When I was in uniform, I was really good at dealing with "Baker Acts" (Florida's law covering the mentally ill), as we called them. I'm not sure if that's something I should brag about. A guy I encountered in North Miami at about two a.m. told me that he had no idea what he would do for work if he didn't find it soon. He was wandering a business district when I found him. I could have arrested him for "Loitering and Prowling" (Florida's crime prevention statute). Instead, I appealed to his whacked-out side.

"There's a new armadillo farm opening up at 152nd Street and Biscayne," I told him. This was one block out of our jurisdiction in the city of our neighbor, North Miami Beach.

"Really?" he asked, excited at the prospect.

"Definitely," I said, with the straightest of faces. "They have a lot of 'dillos there and not enough guys to herd them."

He looked down at the ground for a moment. "Wow, thanks!" He exclaimed. Then, he walked north, out of my zone and into another jurisdiction entirely, to the armadillo farm which didn't exist.

Cruel? Dishonest? You and I know that I did what I had to on that muggy midnight shift. (And, I apologize to my North Miami Beach colleagues.) In those days, we got precious little training on how to deal with the mentally ill. We learned it on the fly.

While I was in homicide, a guy torched his wife because of a domestic dispute. He poured gasoline on her and set her on fire as she slept on the couch. The whole townhouse erupted in flames and their three children, who all slept upstairs, died. He was found incompetent to stand trial, so he never did a minute in prison. Instead, he was remanded to a psychiatric hospital to undergo treatment until he was deemed "competent." That was 1988. I don't know where he is now.

Here's my take on the whole thing. The criminal justice system has always been ill equipped to deal with the constant flow of criminal activity. We are, hopefully, getting better. Somewhere along the line, people in police work and the "corrections" arena have learned that criminal behavior and mental illness go hand-in-hand. Nurses, psychologists, and social workers are mandatory on the rosters of almost every county jail, state prison, and federal prison in this country. When new inmates come in, their first stop is a screening by medical and mental health professionals. They are not "classified" until they go through that step. That's good for the other inmates and it is ultimately good for all of us on the outside. Keep the dangerous people *away* from us. The whys and wherefores really don't matter.

The decision to commit a crime – whether to burglarize a house or eat another person's face – rests solely with the individual. There is a series of "cognitive" decisions involved in the whole process, but let's not complicate the issue: Crime, as we have defined it, is here to stay. However we define or categorize it, a certain segment of our population will do bad things to the rest of us. ZZ Top won't change and he won't put a dent in the community, crimewise, but others will, to be sure. How we respond to each generation's wave of mentally ill people represents the unknown.

It is, for better or worse, the next frontier in criminal justice.

About the Author: Ramesh Nyberg retired from law enforcement in November 2006. He spent 27 years in police work in South Florida, 22 of those years in homicide as an investigator. He has taught homicide investigations and interview/interrogations at the local police academy. He now teaches criminal justice classes at a Legal Affairs Academy program in a magnet high school in Miami. His students frequently read the copies of Police and Security News he brings to the classroom.

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Just Ask Mike...

Michael Carpenter

DEALING WITH DERELICTION

How should the new sergeant respond to a short timer who doesn't give a damn?

Dear Mike,

I got promoted to sergeant a couple of months ago and I was assigned to a different shift in another precinct in the city. I don't have any problems with most of the officers on my shift, but there is one older officer with whom I keep butting heads. He's about 18 months away from retirement, but that doesn't give him the right to disrespect me in front of the other officers or disregard assignments I give him. I guess the previous sergeant just looked the other way because he's so close to retirement or because the other sergeant didn't care. I don't mean to be a jerk about things, but he's still getting paid to do a job – which he is not doing. I don't think it is good for either of us or the rest of the shift if he keeps ignoring my orders and keeps doing what he wants to do whenever he wants to do it. Should I make a big deal about this insubordination or let him slide into retirement?

There could be a couple of things going on here (in addition to the obvious insubordination).

There might be two different ways of looking at this insubordination issue. I'm thinking that maybe this situation could be "let's test the new sergeant and see what happens." This is a fairly common game which is played – usually by more powerful employees. (What I mean by "powerful" is not the rank or title they have, but how influential they are within their peer group. Fancy management books would call these guys "group leaders.") Other employees will be watching how a new sergeant handles the group leader. New sergeants can almost always expect to the tested – it's no different than when you were a kid growing up – you tested your parents to see how they would react when you stepped out of line. If your parents let you get away with something, then you would continue to push them even farther to see where their "line" was drawn. It could be that the entire shift is testing you by watching how you handle this situation. Group leaders are fairly powerful and influential among their peers. They are often well liked and respected, so if you react in a way which the shift feels is unfair, then you stand the chance of alienating the entire shift.

However, a second possibility is that this officer is acting "on his own" without the support of the group. They may feel that his actions are inappropriate and they are waiting for someone (maybe you) to step in and correct the problem. If this is the case and you don't correct the problem, you are doomed for failure as a supervisor.

So, first evaluate how bad the problem is. If you give him direction and he flips you the bird at roll call, then you have a serious problem. But, if he blusters and puffs up his chest in front of his peers, but eventually gets the job done, then you really don't have that big a problem. Clearly, you are the boss (and even your problem child knows it), and your officers know that you (and they) are responsible for certain tasks and duties. If the tasks and duties aren't getting done, then he is placing you and your job in jeopardy. You can't let that happen. If he is merely playing the game, then you have some room to maneuver.

Second, what kind of support do you have from your superiors? If your problem child is the son-in-law of the chief or plays poker with the captain every week, then that limits your options. Can you talk to your superior to see how they might react when you make a decision in this matter? Remember that the previous sergeant allowed this behavior to continue; was that with the approval of the bosses or did they put you on this shift with the expectations that you might actually do what the previous sergeant did not do? I don't think it will take too long for you to understand the direction your bosses expect you to take.

Insubordination is clearly serious. That being said, most cases are low level, routine and day-to-day which involve procedures or policy violations. But, most of these do not spring up overnight – they almost always have a history. Find out the root of the history and maybe you can resolve the issue easier.

Choose your battles carefully. Is the insubordination issue minor or major? Is the issue putting your career at risk? Will your bosses support your decision? (It would create a REAL problem for you

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NEWS

SCOTUS Won't Review TASER® Cases; New Web Site Helps Fill the Gap

The Supreme Court in May declined to review two appeals regarding unconstitutional use of excessive force in TASER deployment. The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in California had found in favor of the women who sued, Malaika Brooks and Jayzel Mattos, saying that they did not pose a threat to officer safety. The appeals court also found that the officers had immunity because, at the time of the incidents, 2004 and 2006, the law on using Electronic Control Weapons (ECWs) had not been clearly established.

To help guide police administrators, use-of-force trainers, attorneys, officers and others in the appropriate use of ECWs, the nonprofit Americans for Effective Law Enforcement (AELE) has established a new, free Web site detailing more than 150 court cases on ECWs. The site's database will be updated monthly with new cases which are organized by federal circuit and categorized by deployment: dart mode, stun mode and corrections. Other resources, such as articles, research and a list of "weapon confusion" cases, are in the database as well.

To see the cases, visit **http://www.aele.org/law/Digests/ECWcases.html**.

if you disciplined your employee, then had your decision reversed by your bosses.)

Of course, in any supervisory/employee problem, a good supervisor always looks in the mirror first. What I mean by that is: Are you creating the problem? Is your supervisory style or your personality or your ego or your attitude towards the employee exacerbating his actions? If so, then perhaps you need to adapt your supervisory style to meet his needs. That might sound a little weird to some bosses, but every employee is an individual and needs to be handled as such. It is too easy for some bosses to immediately revert to an "I'm the sergeant and I'm telling you that you'd better do what I say or else" management style (which really involves only yelling or waving your stripes in front of an employee's face). Usually this doesn't work – although I am continually amazed at the number of bosses who still try. There is an old saying which goes like this: "You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar." Try it and see if it solves your problem.

About the Author: Mike Carpenter has been on the police side of criminal justice for more than 25 years. He started out as a city cop and then went to a state police agency (trooper, detective and patrol sergeant). After that, he worked for the New York State Police Division of Criminal Justice as a police training specialist.

Currently, he teaches criminal justice courses at a college in upstate New York. He has two master's degrees; has been a certified police trainer for more than 20 years; has written numerous articles; and operates a police management consulting business (www.policemanagement.com).

Mike Carpenter has the background and experience to help answer questions and solve problems. If you have a question relating to law enforcement, and you don't know where to go for an answer, then just E-mail Mike at **mcarpenter@policemanagement.com.**
Mike Carpenter respects the privacy of all those who make inquiries.

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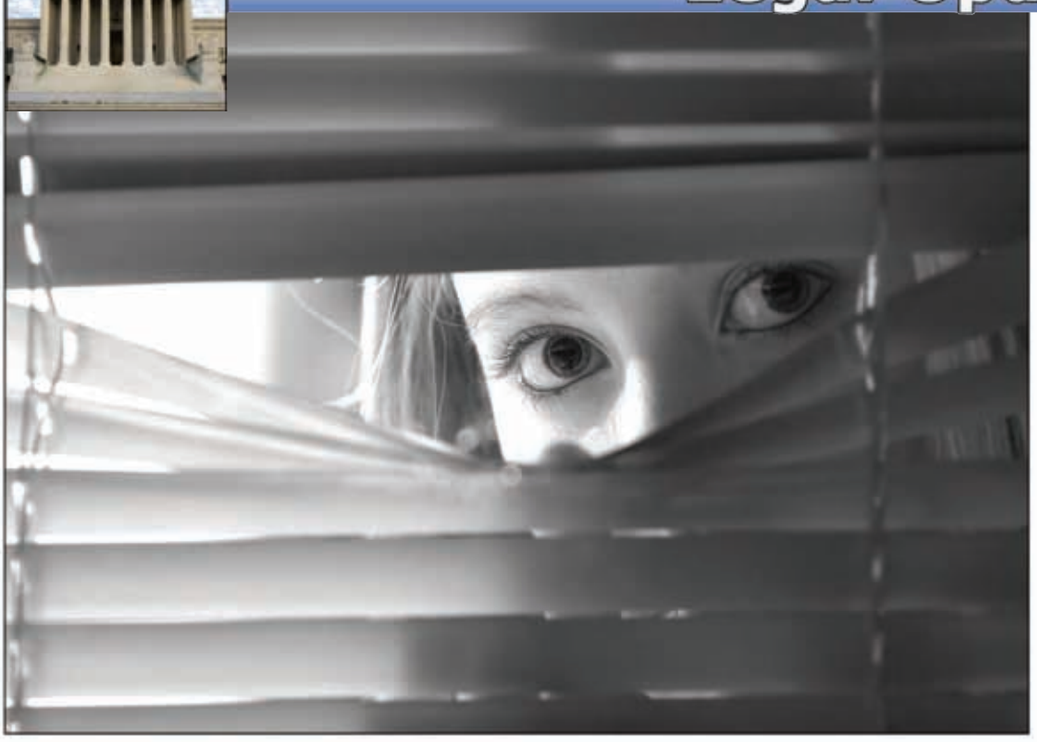

Larry E. Holtz, Esq.

A SUGGESTIVE IDENTIFICATION PROCEDURE NOT PROMPTED BY THE POLICE

In *Perry v. New Hampshire*, 132 *S.Ct.* 716 (2012), the U.S. Supreme Court held that the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause does not require an inquiry into the reliability of an eyewitness identification when the identification was not performed under unnecessarily suggestive circumstances by law enforcement.

As a general matter, the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause regulates the admission of eyewitness identification evidence. The due process check comes into play when "the police have arranged suggestive circumstances leading the witness to identify a particular person as the perpetrator of a crime."

"An identification infected by improper police influence, our case law holds, is not automatically excluded. Instead, the trial judge must screen the evidence for reliability pretrial. If there is 'a very substantial likelihood of irreparable misidentification,' the judge must disallow presentation of the evidence at trial. But, if the indicia of reliability are strong enough to outweigh the corrupting effect of the police arranged suggestive circumstances, the identification evidence ordinarily will be admitted, and the jury will ultimately determine its worth."

In this case, the Court held that a pretrial hearing, often called a *Wade* (*United States v. Wade*, 388 *U.S.* 218, 87 *S.Ct.* 1926 [1967]) hearing, is not required when the suggestive circumstances are not arranged by law enforcement officers. Federal precedent requires the presence of "state action" or "government action." Its design is "to deter police from rigging identification procedures, for example, at a lineup, show up, or photograph array. When no improper law enforcement activity is involved," the Court held, "it suffices to test reliability through the rights and opportunities generally designed for that purpose; notably, the presence of counsel at postindictment lineups, vigorous cross-examination, protective rules of evidence, and jury instructions on both the fallibility of eyewitness identification and the requirement that guilt be proved beyond a reasonable doubt."

The Case

The facts of this case unfolded at about 3:00 a.m. in the middle of August, when the Nashua, New Hampshire, Police Department received a call reporting that an African-American male was trying to break into cars parked in the lot of the caller's apartment building. When an officer responding to the call asked eyewitness Nubia Blandon to describe the man, Blandon pointed to her kitchen window and said the man she saw breaking into the car was standing in the parking lot, next to a police officer. Defendant Barion Perry's arrest followed this identification.

Before trial, Perry "moved to suppress Blandon's identification on the ground that admitting it at trial would violate due process. Blandon witnessed what amounted to a one person showup in the parking lot, Perry asserted, which all but guaranteed that she would identify him as the culprit."

The court below rejected Perry's challenge, finding that Blandon's identification of Perry on the night of the crime did not result from an unnecessarily suggestive procedure manufactured by the police. Rather, Blandon pointed to Perry "spontaneously," and "without any inducement from the police." The officer did not ask Blandon whether the man standing in the parking lot was the man Blandon had seen breaking into the victim's car. Nor did the officer ask Blandon to move to the window from which she had observed the break-in. Consequently, the court ruled that the reliability of Blandon's identification was for the jury to consider.

The United States Supreme Court agreed, finding that the Due Process Clause does not require trial courts to hold pretrial hearings to assess the reliability of an eyewitness identification made under suggestive circumstances not arranged by the police.

In *Neil v. Biggers*, 409 *U.S.* 188, 93 *S.Ct.* 375 (1972), and *Manson v. Brathwaite*, 432 *U.S.* 98, 97 *S.Ct.* 2243 (1977), the Court set forth the approach which is used to determine whether the Due Process Clause requires suppression of an eyewitness identification tainted by police arrangement. In those cases, the Court emphasized, "first, that due process concerns arise only when law enforcement officers use an identification procedure that is both suggestive and unnecessary. * * * Even when the police use such a procedure, the Court next said, suppression of the resulting identification is not the inevitable consequence. * * * A rule requiring automatic exclusion, the Court reasoned, would 'g[o] too far,' for it would 'kee[p] evidence from the jury that is reliable and relevant,' and 'may result, on occasion, in the guilty going free.' "

"Instead of mandating a *per se* exclusionary rule, the Court held that the Due Process Clause requires courts to assess, on a case-by-case basis, whether improper police conduct created a 'substantial likelihood of misidentification.' " Reliability of the eyewitness identification "is the linchpin" of that evaluation. "Where the 'indicators of [a witness'] ability to make an accurate identification' are 'outweighed by the corrupting effect' of

law enforcement suggestion, the identification should be suppressed. Otherwise, the evidence (if admissible in all other respects) should be submitted to the jury." Among the factors to be considered in evaluating an eyewitness' ability to make an accurate identification are "the opportunity of the witness to view the criminal at the time of the crime, the witness' degree of attention, the accuracy of his prior description of the criminal, the level of certainty demonstrated at the confrontation, and the time between the crime and the confrontation."

No Manipulation

Here, in *Perry*, "law enforcement officials did not arrange the suggestive circumstances surrounding Blandon's identification." There was no "manipulation or intentional orchestration by the police." And the Court rejected Perry's assertion that a rule should be adopted which would require "trial judges to prescreen eyewitness evidence for reliability anytime an identification is made under suggestive circumstances."

According to the Court, the "due process check for reliability," comes into play "only after the defendant establishes improper police conduct." Indeed, "the primary aim" of the *Brathwaite* decision in excluding identification evidence obtained under unnecessarily suggestive circumstances, "is to deter law enforcement use of improper lineups, showups, and photo arrays in the first place." This deterrence rationale doesn't apply "in cases like Perry's in which the police engaged in no improper conduct."

Thus, "[t]he fallibility of eyewitness evidence does not, without the taint of improper state conduct, warrant a due process rule requiring a trial court to screen such evidence for reliability before allowing the jury to assess its creditworthiness."

Indeed, at trial, while cross-examining Blandon and the investigating police officer, Perry's attorney constantly brought up the weaknesses of Blandon's identification. She highlighted (1) the significant distance between Blandon's window and the parking lot; (2) the lateness of the hour; (3) the van that partly obstructed Blandon's view; (4) Blandon's concession that she was 'so scared [she] really didn't pay attention' to what Perry was wearing; (5) Blandon's inability to describe Perry's facial features or other identifying marks; (6) Blandon's failure to pick Perry out of a photo array; and (7) Perry's position next to a uniformed, gun-bearing police officer at the moment Blandon made her identification. Moreover, after closing arguments, the trial court "read the jury a lengthy instruction on identification testimony and the factors the jury should consider when evaluating it."

"Given the safeguards generally applicable in criminal trials, protections availed of by the defense in Perry's case," the Court determined that "the introduction of Blandon's eyewitness testimony, without a preliminary judicial assessment of its reliability, did not render Perry's trial fundamentally unfair."

Accordingly, "the Due Process Clause does not require a preliminary judicial inquiry into the reliability of an eyewitness identification when the identification was not procured under unnecessarily suggestive circumstances arranged by law enforcement."

About the Author: Larry E. Holtz is the C.E.O. and Executive Director of Police Training for Holtz Learning Centers, Ltd. He has served as a Detective Sergeant with the Atlantic City, New Jersey, Police Department; a Deputy Attorney General for the state of New Jersey; and an Assistant County Prosecutor. Mr. Holtz is a certified police trainer and teaches on a regular basis in police training academies in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

He is a member of the bar in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the District of Columbia, and is admitted to practice before the federal bar in the District of New Jersey and the Third Circuit.

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Product Highlight

Handguns & Accessories

KAHR ARMS

The **CM40**, with a 5+1 capacity, in a .40 S&W caliber, has a 3.0" barrel with polygonal rifling, and measures 5.47" with a height of four inches; the pistol weighs 15.8 ounces and the magazine weighs 1.9 ounces. Designed with a black polymer frame and a matte stainless steel slide, the rear sights are drift adjustable white bar dot combat sights with a pinned in polymer front sight.

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KIMBER

The **Super Carry Pro HD**™ (Heavy Duty) .45 ACP is an all steel pistol with Custom Shop features. The four inch, bushingless match grade bull barrel and round heel frame make it easy to carry. Both the slide and frame are machined from stainless steel and wear the premium KimPro II™ finish which is self-lubricating and extremely resistant to moisture and salt. Special frame and slide serrations engage directionally, locking in a positive grip, ensuring flawless slide operation. Night sights, an ambidextrous thumb safety, and a match grade trigger are standard.

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BUFFER TECHNOLOGIES

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AMERIGLO

AmeriGlo founder, Rick Callihan, and retired police officer, Dave Spaulding, have collaborated on a new sight design. The **CAP** (Combative Application Pistol) is now available for all GLOCK® models. The high visibility, low profile sight system enables shooters to reference their front sight even in times of high stress, like armed conflict. The front sight (AmeriGlo's ProGlo style) features green tritium with a lime green glow paint outline; the rear has a lime green glow paint reference point.

Circle 5031 for More Information

AIMPOINT, INC.

The Aimpoint Micro Series of sights is available with a **2 MOA** red dot in addition to the current 4 MOA dot. These sights can be mounted on nearly any individual platform, including pistols, and the Micro sights are also ideal for use with Aimpoint's wide range of accessories. Both the Micro T-1 and H-1 can operate for up to five years of constant on use with just one CR-2032 battery.

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XS® SIGHT SYSTEMS, INC.

The M&P Shield™ is the latest slim, concealable, and lightweight pistol released from Smith & Wesson® and XS Sight Systems worked closely with the engineers from Smith & Wesson to manufacture tritium gunfighter sights as an immediate upgrade option to factory sights. Utilizing a shallow V rear sight and visible Big Dot™ or Standard Dot™ front, the **XS sights for the M&P Shield** are designed for rapid front sight acquisition in full, little, and low light conditions; they consist of a tritium front and a non-tritium rear.

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SMITH & WESSON

Chambered in 9mm and .40 S&W, the **SD9 VE**™ and **SD40 VE**™ semiautomatic pistols combine value with enhanced features. The foundation of each **SD VE** pistol is based on a lightweight polymer frame. On the stainless steel slide, the **SD VE** pistol features a distinctive two-tone finish along with front and rear slide serrations for improved firearm handling. The Self Defense Trigger (SDT™) design helps to enhance accuracy and the **SD VE** comes standard with a white dot front sight and a white two dot rear sight. A universal Picatinny style equipment rail underneath the barrel is standard for optional tactical lights, lasers and other accessories. With a four inch barrel and an overall length of 7.2 inches, both pistols have an unloaded weight of 22.7 ounces and a width of 1.29 inches.

Circle 5034 for More Information

Walt Rauch

THE NEW SIG SAUER® MODEL P938 NIGHTMARE

A 1911-style pocket auto in 9mm

This new SIG SAUER Model P938, chambered in 9x19mm caliber, is an updated version of SIG's Model P238, chambered in .380ACP, which was introduced in 2009. With the P238 being a locked breech, short recoil operated pistol, the action is more than sufficient to handle the more powerful 9x19mm round. In one sense, the original – the P238 – is overbuilt for the .380ACP caliber, as many other such pocket pistols in this caliber successfully work with a simpler, and less costly to produce, direct blowback system. Mechanically, the only change to the P238 to become the P938 is being slightly enlarged to accommodate the longer 9x19mm cartridge. If you want to get picky about it, you can also include the new standard ambidextrous manual thumb safety of the P938 which is an extra cost option on the P238.

The slide stop, thumb safety and magazine catch are all easily reached with one's right gripping hand.

Features

The P938 resembles a miniaturized version of a 1911 pistol, yet mechanically varies from this ancient (but still quite effective) ancestor. One quickly visible change is that there is no manual grip safety.

Focusing on the single-action-only P938, it has a Nitron® coated stainless steel slide over a dark, hard anodized alloy frame with Hogue® Black Diamondwood grips. The barrel lockup is straight SIG, with the chamber hood mating with the ejection port. There is no barrel bushing, but there is a full-length, noncaptive recoil spring on a metal guide rod.

It has an exposed and rounded hammer; ambidextrous manual thumb safeties; and an overall length of 5.9 inches. It is 3.9 inches high; has a width of 1.1 inches; and the suggested trigger pull weight is 7.5 to 8.5 pounds. The barrel length is 3.0 inches and it weighs 16 ounces (without magazine).

The grip panels are checkered – except for the horizontal strip centered on both in which "SIG SAUER" is cut into the smooth surface. Four blued Allen screws – two to a side – hold them in place. The grips extend upward, partially shielding the slide stop, magazine catch and thumb safeties. These safety flanges, or "shelves," then protrude just enough for manipulation, while still providing some protection against accidental movement.

Safety Pinch

The only problem I encountered with this "protection" was that, when shooting with a high grip, part of the flesh of my shooting hand was pinched when I disengaged the ambidextrous safety. If I were to own this sample, I would experiment at softening and/or lowering the sharp edges of the panel beneath the safety with the intent of the safety movement pushing away, not trapping, the flesh of my hand. For me, though, this is but a small price to pay for the advantages of easily operating the safety with either hand and the lessening of accidental disengagement which I often manage

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The curved pivoting trigger is vertically grooved; the front strap has fine checkering.

to do when carrying or using other 1911 pistols lacking this thoughtful consideration. (My usual solution is to either remove the offside safety or file the flange down to such an extent that it takes effort to operate it at all.)

Sights

The slide of the "Nightmare" model comes equipped with SIGLITE® night sights which are held in dovetails on the slide. While not specifically addressed in the accompanying instruction manual, the SIGLITE sights, as well as the standard sights, are adjustable for elevation. A choice of six rear sights and five front sights allow approximately a two inch point of impact change at 25 yards. Windage adjustment is done by moving either or both sights in their retaining dovetail cuts.

The ejection port is quite large. There are seven grasping grooves to its rear. The spring powered extractor, retained by a hollow pin, is on the ejection port's right side. The sides of the slide have the "SIG" look which is a centered relief cut with the top portion narrower than the lower portion. This treatment runs from the muzzle to the rear of the ejection port.

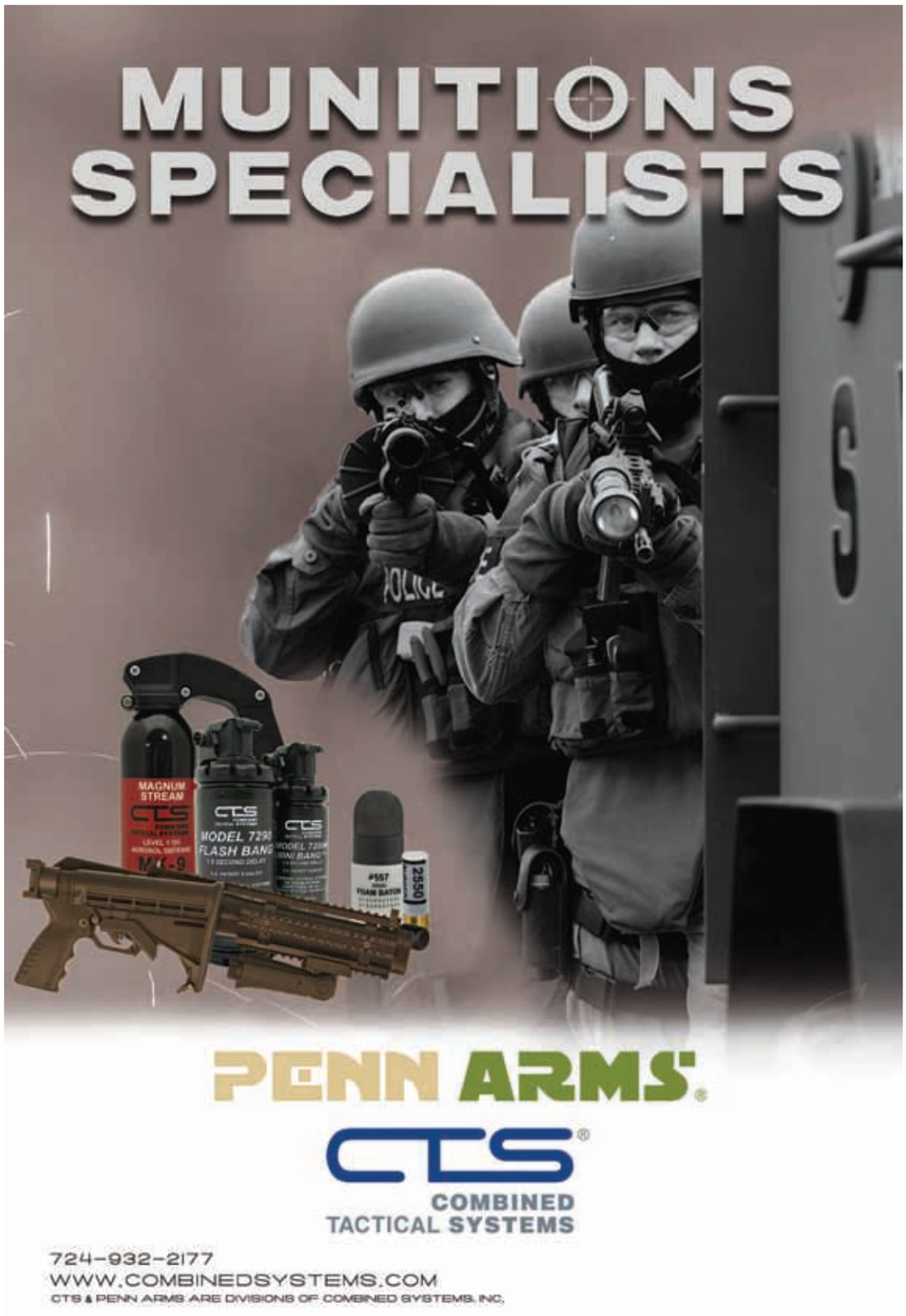
Examining the bottom of the slide shows a feature first used on the cartridge pickup rail of the P238. This is a dome shaped projection on the bottom forward portion of the rail and its function, according to a SIG engineer, is to help insure that the last round's empty case fully clears the gun. As was explained to me, when the last shot is fired and an empty magazine is in the gun, the dome is then pressing against the magazine follower as the now empty case extracts and ejects. Also, the forward lower edge of the pickup rail is beveled to aid the cartridge's movement into the barrel chamber.

The alloy frame has a decent-sized beavertail, relieved at its top, allowing the exposed grooved and skeletonized hammer to move down into it when the gun cycles. The magazine well is slightly beveled. The front strap and the mainspring housing are finely checkered.

Controls

The horizontally grooved slide catch, magazine release and ambidextrous thumb safety are all on the left side and frame mounted in 1911 locations. The slide catch is above the trigger guard, the magazine catch is at the guard's lower left rear and the manual safety is at the top rear of the slide (on both left and right sides, of course). Safety Note: The slide can be manipulated for loading, unloading or chamber inspection with the safety in the "up" or "on" position.

SIG has also addressed a problem I found with my Colt Government .380, in that its thumb safety is too easily dislodged. On the P938, the thumb safeties move positively, but with authority in and out of "on" safe or "off" safe mode.



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Seven grasping grooves provide a good handhold on the slide. Note the large external extractor and the right side of the ambidextrous thumb safety.

The pivoting polymer trigger is vertically grooved on its face. SIG SAUER states the trigger pull weight to be 7.5 to 8.5 pounds, as noted earlier, while my measurements showed weights of seven or 7.5 pounds, depending on where the trigger gauge arm was placed on the curved trigger face.

Also, as mentioned earlier, there is no grip safety or barrel bushing, but a passive firing pin safety system is in the slide and is similar to that used in other semiautos.

One Extra Round

The single, flush fit, all metal magazine holds six rounds and has six inspection holes on each side. An optional seven round magazine is in the pipeline and is to be an optional purchase, except for the P938 "Extreme" model when it will be supplied.

I was sent one of these optional seven round mags for inclusion in this article. The protruding magazine has a polymer spacer which fills in the space created by its additional length, with the collar fitting nicely and adding to the grip length. I found the collar improved the "feel" of the gun, as I could now get a full three finger grip. Only .5" to .625" of an inch is added to the length of the frame, but, for me, I'd go with this setup over the flush fit magazine for everyday carry unless maximum concealment is absolutely necessary.

Apart and Back

To disassemble the P938, after insuring the gun is unloaded and the magazine is removed, move the slide rearward until the slide disassembly notch is aligned with the slide stop tab. With the slide stop removed, the slide comes off to the front of the frame, but take care not to lose control of the noncaptive recoil spring on its guide rod.

This assembly is removed with forward pressure and a lift. The barrel can then be dropped down and out of the slide.

The SIG SAUER® P938 Nightmare, disassembled

When you reassemble it, there are a few "musts." You need to make sure the narrower end of the recoil spring is facing to the rear on the guide rod. Also note that the notched side of the guide rod must face toward the barrel. If done correctly, you can't see the notched area when the assembly is installed. To not do either of these steps guarantees that the gun will malfunction. Also – and this is another "biggie" – the ejector must be depressed only enough to allow the slide full rearward travel on the frame. Push the ejector down too far and your next step is shipping the gun back to SIG SAUER. Per the instruction manual, "...this condition is not correctable at the operator level – the pistol must be returned to SIG SAUER for repair."

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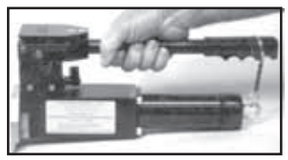

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Mass Shooting Realities

NEWS

Much speculation surrounds mass shootings, but it can lead to misperceptions about the attacks' origins. For one thing, the so-called "crazed killer" is likely to have spent so long planning the attack that he's unlikely to have a medical condition which prevents him from distinguishing right from wrong. Anger and psychopathy are not the same as mental illness, and the anger, fueling a desire for vengeance, is what leads to the planning.

Meanwhile, although many mass shooters are suicidal, they frequently kill themselves or allow themselves to be killed by police. Only 17 percent of those studied from 1974 to 2000 had ever been diagnosed with actual mental illness. Many are likely to resist any suggestion that they themselves have a problem.

Family members are often as blind to the warning signs as others, including teachers or bosses. Teen shooters hide plans from their parents; for instance, prosecutors never charged the Klebold or Harris families for failure to report their sons to police. And, while many shooters hint to peers or siblings about their plans, their lack of prior violent behavior may reduce those people's likelihood to report for fear of overreacting – after all, few frustrated people actually do resort to mass murder.

Following an incident, communities don't band together over the long term as is widely assumed. Donation allocations to families of both the dead and injured can be contentious, as can lawsuits filed against other community members, business owners, the shooters' families, and others.

Additionally, while it's widely assumed that reducing illegal gun sales would help, nearly 70 percent of mass shooters obtained their guns legally or from their relatives' homes. Most don't have the felony convictions which would prevent their access to legal guns.

Finally, the assumption that "anywhere" is subject to mass shootings is false. School shootings, for instance, are more likely to happen in suburban and rural areas in small Southern and Western towns. There, the culture is likely to place a higher value on maintaining a sense of honor; yet, students who are bullied or ignored can easily feel that sense of honor threatened or taken away and desire revenge as a result.

This is similar to adult shooters who want revenge when they perceive that they have been wronged. Also, shooters in smaller communities are less likely to have family or friends they can turn to for support. This sense of isolation can exacerbate their frustration and feeling as if society has turned against them.

For more, see **www.secretservice.gov/ntac/ssi_final_report.pdf and http://pss.sagepub.com/content/20/11/1400.abstract**.

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The ejector should only be depressed into the frame enough to allow the slide to pass over it.

Range Results

At the range, three of us shot this sample with a limited amount of ammunition which included Federal Hydra-Shok® 147-grain JHP, Hornady® 124-grain JHP/XTP and Winchester® 115-grain FMJ. We shot at 15 yards, seated, over a gun bag rest. Our groups ran two to three inches – center to center – for five rounds and all the ammunition worked without any failures. (Note: SIG recommends the recoil spring be changed every 1500 rounds for best functioning.)

I also found the extended magazine to be a definite plus when I did some draw and fire work using a DeSantis prototype Mini Scabbard® belt holster. When I drew using the flush fit magazine, I fumbled my draw as I found I was barely taking a two-finger grip, but, when I switched over to the extended magazine, its surrounding collar/base pad allowed me to get a full three-finger grip. Putting a fine edge on this, now I felt as though I was drawing a full-sized – not pocket-sized – pistol. Conversely, the extended magazine hindered my draw from a front pants pocket, since it allowed the gun to catch on the lip of the pocket.

The only limitations I found with the gun were the same as what I had with the P238. Downrange accuracy depends on distance to target, but more important for me was how well (or not) I managed the trigger. Most important, however, was how well (or not) I maintained the same stiff-arm hold while firing. The short sight radius didn't help, either. I did try the longer magazine and found the results to be the same, but I felt I was expending less effort to get there. This said, the P938 is not a bull's-eye pistol unless the "target" is a well placed defensive shot or two, three or more fired in self-defense. For this purpose, the P938 will dot an "eye," so to speak.

Final Thoughts

With SIG SAUER's introduction of the Model P938 semiauto pistol chambered for the .9x19mm round, we now have a quite viable miniaturized version of the 1911 handgun for personal defense. SIG has not reinvented anything, but certainly improved on an existing design and has provided those devotees of the 1911 with a choice of caliber and operation well suited for personal defense in a

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highly concealable package.

According to the SIG SAUER Web site (as of this writing), four versions of the P938 are now offered. This is incorrect, as the "Nightmare" actually is number five. The P938 ships in a lockable, hard case with one six round magazine. The Nightmare's MSRP is $829.

About the Author: Upon receiving his BS degree from Carnegie Tech and completing service as a Special Agent in U.S. Army Intelligence, Walt Rauch was a Special Agent with the U.S. Secret Service and an Investigator with the Warrant Unit, First Judicial District, PA.

Rauch is also a writer and lecturer in the firearms field. He is published regularly in national and international publications.

For more information, log on to **www.sigsauer.com.**

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CHRONOGRAPH RESULTS:
SIG SAUER® MODEL P938 NIGHTMARE

The following results were obtained using a Master Gamma Chrony® chronograph at 300 feet above sea level, with an ambient temperature of 73 degrees and shot at 15 yards, seated, over a gun bag rest. All are five shot averages. Pistol used: SIG SAUER P938, caliber 9x19mm, 3.0" barrel, serial number 52A000326.

Ammunition	Velocity (fps)	Standard Deviation	Group Size
Federal Hydra-Shok® 147-grain JHP	931	7.6	2.125"
Hornady® 124-grain JHP/XTP	1020	6.9	1.875"
Winchester® 115-grain FMJ	1051	18.0	3.750"

SIG SAUER®
P938 NIGHTMARE

Technical Specifications

Caliber: 9x19mm
Action type: SAO
Trigger pull: Single-action 7.5 – 8.5 pounds
Overall length: 5.9"
Overall height: 3.9"
Overall width: 1.1"
Barrel length: 3.0"
Sight radius: 4.2"
Weight without magazine: 16.0 ounces
Magazine capacity: Flush fit – six rounds (supplied)
Extended fit – seven rounds (optional purchase – price TBD as of this writing)
Sights: SIGLITE® Night Sights
Grips: Hogue® Black Diamondwood grips
Frame finish: Black hard anodized
Frame material: Aluminum
Slide finish: Black Nitron®
Slide material: Stainless steel
Features: Beavertail-style frame; ambidextrous thumb safety
MSRP: $829.00
CA compliant: No
MA compliant: No

NRA 2011 Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Deputy Michael S. Zack
Cecil County Maryland Sheriff's Department

Deputy Michael S. Zack exemplifies the professionalism of our nation's best law enforcement officers who view their role as a sacred trust.

His fellow Deputy may well be alive today because of Zack's heroism.

I can think of no one more deserving of recognition as NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year than Deputy Zack.

David A. Keene
NRA President

On January 6, 2011, a Cecil County Maryland Sheriff's Office Deputy attempted to stop a motorist for a minor traffic offense. The violator ignored the deputy's signals to stop, and a 10-mile pursuit began. At one point during the pursuit, the violator stopped, placed his vehicle in reverse, and rammed the pursuing deputy's cruiser. Identified through a license plate check, the driver was found to have a suspended driver's license, and there were reports that he had been aggressive against law enforcement, local government officials, and may be unstable.

Off-duty Cecil County Deputy First Class Michael Zack, traveling in his take-home cruiser, was unaware of the pending pursuit until he saw a cruiser at a distance in his rear view mirror with its emergency lights on. He then heard radio traffic about the traffic stop and that the driver might attempt to flee.

Despite other deputies being dispatched to provide back up, having only his off-duty pistol and credentials, and in civilian clothes, Deputy Zack turned his cruiser around to assist his fellow deputy without hesitation. As Deputy Zack finished a u-turn, the pursuit began. The suspect sped towards him and moved his car directly into the path of Deputy Zack's cruiser in an attempt to hit him head-on. After taking evasive action, Deputy Zack was able to turn back around, join in the pursuit and provide immediate back-up, and took charge of the communications.

The pursuit's path indicated that the suspect was heading for his residence, so Deputy Zack terminated the pursuit to protect innocent citizens from further danger. He hoped the suspect would slow down and stop driving recklessly when he saw the cruisers back off.

After reaching the suspect's residence, the deputies located the suspect's vehicle and searched the open area as they moved independently towards the house. Reaching the front door first, Deputy Zack's partner saw that it was open. As he began visually searching the entrance area, he saw the suspect with a sawed-off shotgun in his hand. Hearing his partner commanding the suspect to drop the shotgun, Deputy Zack ran to his partner's location, where he saw the gunman raising the shotgun towards his partner. Seeing Deputy Zack's movement off to his side, the gunman turned his attention away from the deputy and aimed the shotgun at Deputy Zack's head. Deputy Zack immediately engaged the gunman with multiple shots, dropping the gunman to the floor, and ending the confrontation.

From the beginning to the end of the incident, Deputy Zack played a major role. His response to aid a fellow deputy without hesitation, despite being off-duty and without his ballistic vest and duty gear, was without a doubt above and beyond the call of duty. Deputy Zack's valorous act of placing himself in harm's way to draw the attention of the gunman away from his partner is a credit to himself, his department, and the community he serves. His personal actions to quickly end the gunman's actions ensured the safety of other responding deputies and neighborhood residents.

His calmness, professionalism and heroism are in keeping with the highest traditions of law enforcement. It is with great honor and pride that the National Rifle Association names Deputy First Class Michael S. Zack of the Cecil County Maryland Sheriff's Office as the 2011 NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year.

NRA's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award was established in 1993, and recognizes exceptional valor, public service, and dedication to the principles of our Constitutional heritage.

Entry forms for nominating candidates for the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award may be downloaded at www.nrahq.org/law/graphics/leoy.pdf. Entry forms must be submitted by October 20.

Nominations are accepted from anyone having knowledge of the nominee's actions. This includes, but is not limited to, the nominee's agency head, other law enforcement officials, elected officials, fellow officers, community leaders, interested citizens, and NRA members.

For more information about NRA's Law Enforcement Officer of the Year Award and its Law Enforcement Division, call (703) 267-1632 or send an e-mail to LE@nrahq.org.

Scan this code with your smartphone or tablet to get more information about the NRA Law Enforcement Officer of the Year recognition.

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Above and Beyond...

HONORING THOSE WHO TAKE RISKS AND SAVE LIVES

"Above and Beyond..." salutes Officers Jeffrey Caldwell, Fred Dow, and Det. Michael Pellegrino of the Ewing, NJ, Police Department

Artwork by Don Lomax

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Nominations for "Above and Beyond..." should be based on the factual rescue of a citizen or the apprehension of a criminal in which the officer(s) demonstrated exceptional courage and bravery.

Submissions should include a brief description of the incident, photos of the officer(s), as well as a letter or E-mail from the ranking officer of the department/agency certifying the nomination.

Please direct all submissions and/or questions to:
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Police and Security News
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Quakertown, PA 18951
jdevery@policeandsecuritynews.com

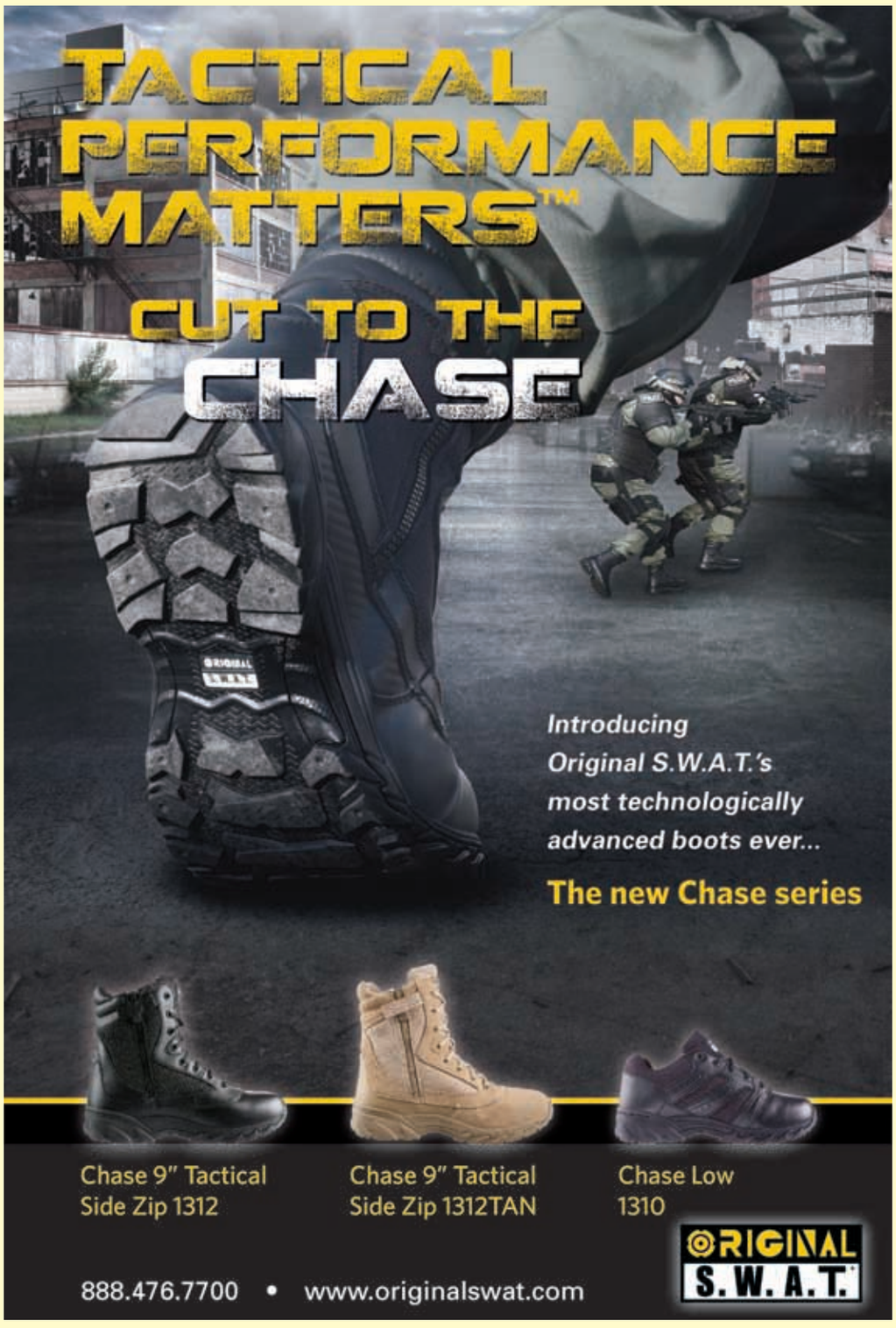
Bringing Military Surplus to the Beat

"Doing more with less" has been part of American policing for years now, as grant money has dried up and agencies have been forced to find creative ways to stretch their budgets. One example of this kind of creativity: tapping military surplus.

Night vision goggles, infrared cameras, radios, long guns, office supplies, and even vehicles and aircraft are all examples of equipment which police departments have procured using the Law Enforcement Support Office, a Defense Department program which has made military surplus available to agencies since 1997. Originally, the program assisted state and federal counternarcotics operations; later, counterterrorism and law enforcement purposes were added.

State level offices administer the program, reviewing and approving requests. The equipment can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars per agency, but the program allows law enforcement agencies to procure it at low cost, or even no cost, other than shipping. Even modifying weapons for law enforcement use – for instance, converting an automatic gun to a semiautomatic – is cheaper than buying new guns. The surplus is fed by force drawdowns in Iraq and Afghanistan and, in 2011, was valued at close to $500 million – more than twice 2010's value. More than 11,500 local, state and federal agencies in all 50 states and three US territories take advantage of the program.

Critics are concerned that a civilian agency's use of military-grade weapons and other equipment could send the wrong message to the public. On the other hand, criminals' access to increasingly powerful weaponry means outgunned police. And, the equipment can even be valuable to emergency management and rescue operations.



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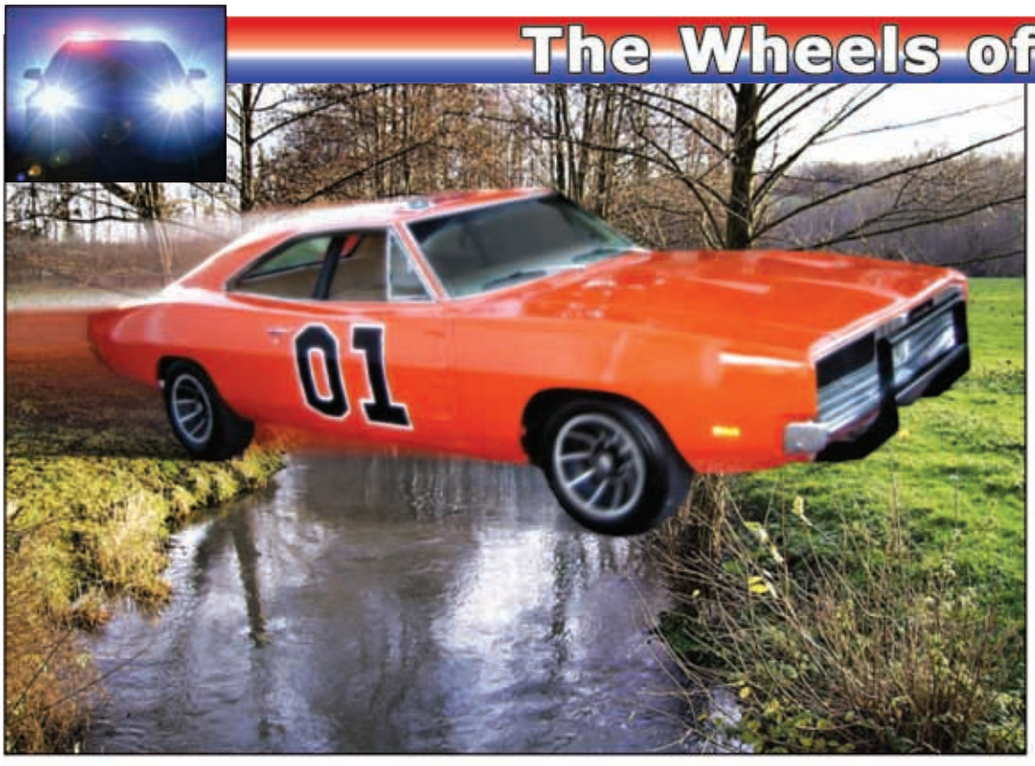

Sgt. James Post

DUKE BOYS NO LONGER ABLE TO ELUDE ROSCO...

America's best-selling truck joins the ranks.

The flat screen blinks to life with a familiar image of Bo and Luke speeding down a Hazzard County back road, spewing gravel and leaving a rooster tail of dust. To a familiar tune of Waylon Jennings crooning, "It's the good old boys...," we settle back to watch as the Duke boys (at the wheel of the "General Lee") take us along for their latest misadventure. But, hold on, something is different this time...the red and blue lights are actually gaining on the duo. Could they finally have met their match with Hazzard County's finest? And, what the hell is Rosco driving? As their pursuer gains on them, the boys can't believe their eyes as they see that Rosco has traded his tired old cruiser for a pickup truck! And, mind you, not just any pickup, either; it's the best-selling commercial truck for over a quarter of a century – a Ford F-150!

Not Pursuit Rated

That story won't be too far-fetched if the "Blue Oval" folks from Dearborn have their way. Ford has announced the exciting new 2013 F-150 will be available in a cop rated Special Service Vehicle (SSV) version. Please note that this is NOT a pursuit rated vehicle, but a heavy-duty vehicle suited for emergency services.

The SSV upgrade comes at no extra charge, and it's available in both extended and crew cab configurations.

Ford's official press release of June 11, 2012, announced the new option. "Our fleet customers have been asking us to create this option for our F-Series trucks," said Ford Government Sales Manager Tony Gratson. "We are confident the current [2012] and updated 2013 F-150s equipped with the SSV Package will be of particular interest to our government customers with rugged jobs, such as law enforcement, fire fighting and national and state park patrols."

Of course, what Ford did not say is that this may be a response to similarly equipped packages announced about this time last year by the folks at Ram® Trucks. Regardless of the reasoning, it is great news for law enforcement agencies needing a tough truck package. Of course, the best news of all is that there is no charge for this package! That almost seems impossible in this age of everything costing more, but it's true. Ford has managed to put this package together by eliminating other items not needed for this type of service. Following, you'll discover what constitutes the F-150 SSV Package.

Putting the Pieces Together

First, it's important to note that the SSV option is available in both the SuperCab and SuperCrew F-150 models and in 2WD or 4WD versions. But, wait, there's more. The trucks are available with two engine choices, the venerable 5.0L DOHC V-8, developing 360 hp or the new 3.5L Ti-VCT EcoBoost® V-6 with twin turbos which actually pumps out five horsepower more than the V-8 at 365 hp and boasts of a better miles per gallon than the V-8, too. The V-6 is EPA rated at 21 mpg highway and a best in class 15 mpg city (in the 2WD version); whereas, the V-8 is rated at 19 mpg highway and 14 mpg city. A similar EcoBoost V-6 is rapidly becoming the optional engine of choice for departments ordering Ford's new Interceptors, the sedan and SUV-based units. Both engines are computer limited to a top speed of 98 mph. (Remember, Ford stresses that these are not pursuit vehicles!)

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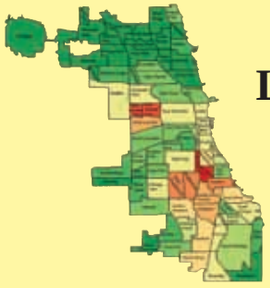

Predictive Policing Helps Los Angeles Police Respond Before They're Needed

In the "do more with less" era, policing has turned from a focus on arrests to a focus on preventing crimes to begin with. That's why police departments in Los Angeles and other communities are turning to predictive policing which uses statistics to anticipate where certain crimes are likely to occur – and help police respond either to intercept or deter criminals and crime.

Hotspot policing accelerated, predictive policing is based not just on historical numbers, but also on the patterns generated within the databases which retain community crime data. Such databases take the CompStat model used by Los Angeles and New York City police, and add algorithms. The patterns take into account crime location, timing, and type, and are based on the notions of repeat victimization, as well as offender "comfort zones."

Predicted areas can be as small as 500 square feet and officers may be assigned those areas when they aren't answering calls for service. In California, police in the San Fernando Valley have seen significant reductions in property crimes (like burglaries) since implementing predictive policing. Some areas in Los Angeles have noticed that, in areas where predictive policing has not been deployed, crime has increased.

Even so, some legal experts are concerned that data-crunching could lead to racial profiling or neighborhood stereotyping and, in doing so, make it easier for officers to violate the Fourth Amendment; for instance, by detaining people who simply look suspicious, even if they are doing nothing wrong.

Both SSV engines are mated to Ford's new electronically operated six-speed automatic overdrive transmission which provides the right gear for the right situation. It is controlled by a column mounted shift lever.

To develop the SSV package, Ford took the popular XL series work truck and began deleting features not needed, such as the running boards. They modified the existing 40/20/40 bench seat by eliminating the center (20) section, and then covered the whole thing in rugged cloth with recessed areas to clear an officer's sidearm and handheld radio. The deleted center section facilitates easy installation of aftermarket consoles and computer mounts. Carpeting has been replaced with durable rubber mats, but carpets do remain an option. The rear seat is three across seating in a 40/20/40 configuration, covered in prisoner ready vinyl.

There is ample room in either cab design for the latest prisoner partitions. The larger SuperCrew version enlarges the rear compartment, but reduces the bed by a foot (5.5 feet) from the SuperCab's 6.5 foot bed.

Included in the SSV package is a high capacity, 220 amp alternator and the plethora of extra fluid coolers associated with severe service. The SSV in 4x4 features skid plates which protect the

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The Aftermarket Awaits

As we speak, law enforcement equipment manufacturers are tooling up to provide accessories for the much anticipated SSV Ford pickups. Some manufacturers, such as Jotto Desk, Setina and Pro-gard, were already building components for commercial F-150 applications, such as consoles and computer mounts. Jotto Desk has supply consoles, computer mounts, gun mounts and prisoner partitions available for the SSVs. However, there's another Jotto truck accessory which interests me for use in the SSV Fords and I think it will interest consumers as well. It is their patented Jotto Cargo Slide. This is a heavy-duty aluminum sliding tray for pickup beds. It is available for both of the SSV bed sizes (5.5 feet and 6.5 feet), as well as longer sizes, too. They are available in weight capacities ranging from 800 lbs. to 2000 lbs. and they will support that weight at FULL extension (70% of the bed's length). These slides would expand the versatility of Ford's (and others) severe duty pickups exponentially. Portable scales and canine compartments are just two of the myriad of types of cop stuff which could be hauled. The addition of a fiberglass shell would not only insure the bed contents would be safe from the elements, but would provide a canvass for expanded department graphics.

The front seat middle section is removed on the SSV upgrade to allow installation of consoles or weapon mounts.

The Philadelphia Police Department allows officers to transport critically injured persons (shooting and stabbing victims) in their assigned vehicles and have been doing so for some 20 years. Called "scoop and runs," this practice is utilized when ambulances are scarce and before trained medical personnel arrive. The officers are minimally trained for the transport and are required to obtain the victim's consent first. When I started my law enforcement career, our city fire department operated a number of big block Chevy station wagons and did the same thing – they strapped victims on gurneys, tied the gurneys down and blasted off into the night. No time-consuming stabilizing of the victim or getting vitals and a history...just grab and run. We always figured if the victims survived the ride, they could survive anything! Philadelphia's policy is seldom seen in other American cities today, of course, but they (Philadelphia) should at least buy vehicles up to the challenge. Shrinking cruisers and SUVs just aren't going to cut it, but a Ford SSV with an insulated shell and Jotto Cargo Slide would work quite well. Even the lightest capacity slide would support two 250 pound victims on gurneys at full extension!

Wrap-up

Folks, the future of police vehicles is here and you, as consumers, have the greatest selection of vehicles ever offered! Be it the traditional four-door V-8, ground pounding RWD sedans from Chevy and Dodge; or the FWD six pack Fords with turbos; or small and large SUVs from all of the "Big Three," they're all out there. Now, to those

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This Jotto Cargo Slide can support 800 to 2000 lbs. of weight at full extension.

choices, add the special duty pickups from Ford and Ram and there's got to be something for every possible law enforcement application. And, I didn't even mention the two and three wheel solos. Obviously, the choice of Ford trucks should be a no-brainer for Ford loyal departments which already field Ford Interceptors, but, undoubtedly, they will be considered by others as well.

According to my DMV, pickup trucks account for ten percent of the registered vehicles in my state. I recently participated in a memorial convoy for a chief of police killed in a traffic accident and among the 300 (or so) emergency vehicles participating were a number of law enforcement pickup trucks. I didn't count them, but I'd guess they made up about ten percent of the vehicles assembled. So, they are out there in service already – be it in the mountains of Colorado, Wyoming or Montana or transporting Fish & Game officers to a favorite fishing hole, or patrolling dusty county back roads in Kansas and Oklahoma, the trucks are already out there protecting and serving every day and the new Blue Ovals will be a welcome addition.

About the Author: James G. Post always appreciates your comments and encourages your ideas about future topics. He can be reached at 5922 S. Primrose Rd., Lowell, AR 72745-9379 or via E-mail at kopkars@arkansas.net.

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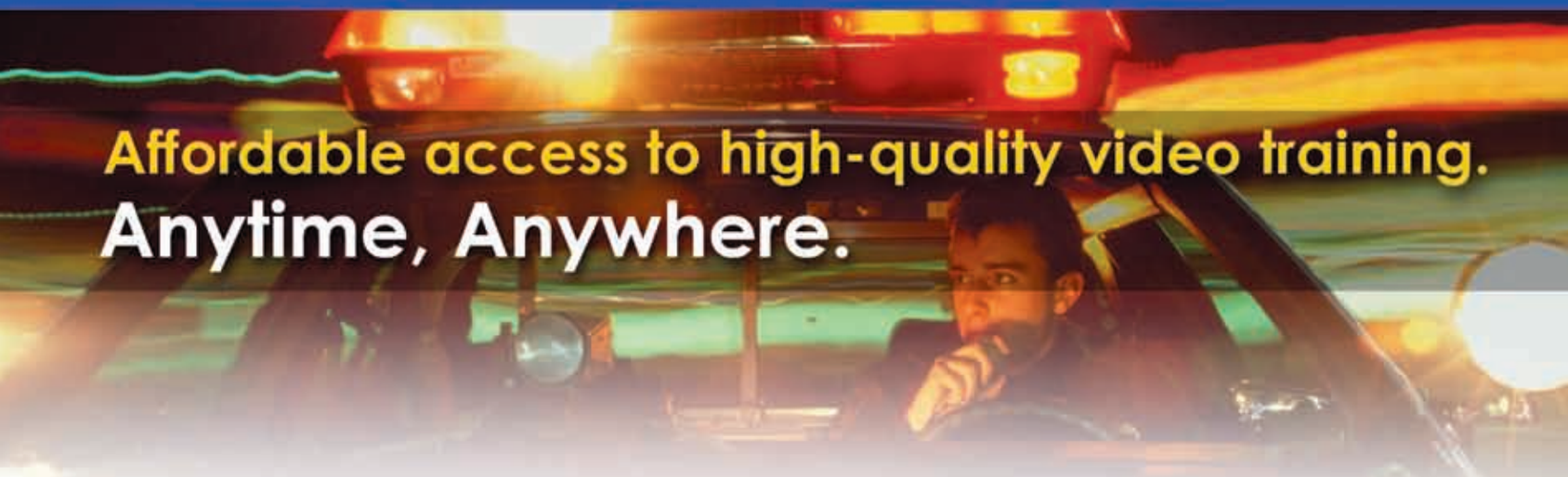

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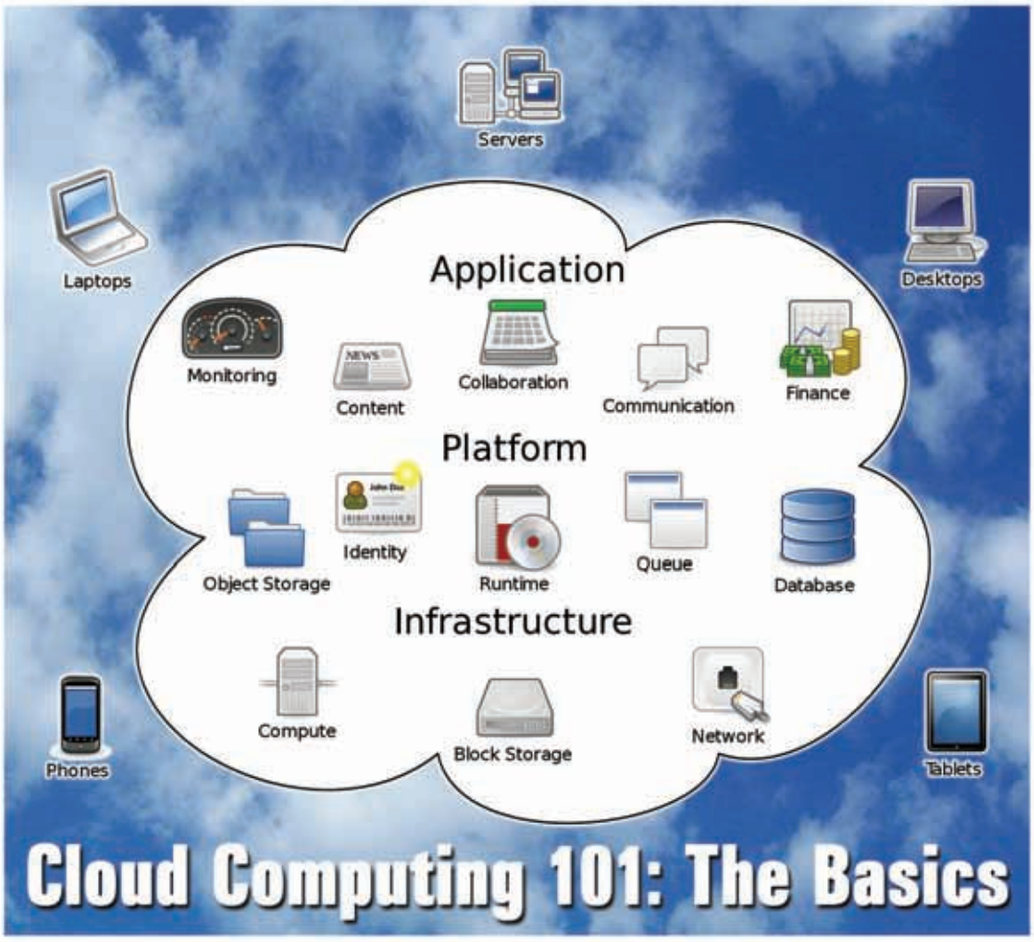


Bill Siuru, Ph.D., PE

There is a revolution going on in the computer world and it's called cloud computing.

In simplest terms, cloud computing moves the applications (or software), complex hardware and data storage from individual computers to third-party servers which is the "cloud." If you use Hotmail®, Gmail™, Google Drive, Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Carbonite, or even Netflix, you are already using cloud computing.

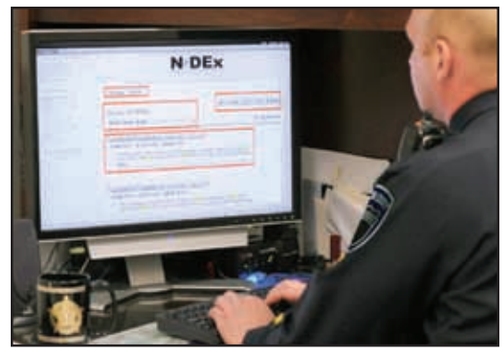
Law enforcement applications like the FBI's Law Enforcement National Data Exchange, (N-DEx) and IBM's COPLINK are examples of cloud computing already widely used by law enforcement. Utilizing the Internet, the usual way of accessing the third-party servers, agencies can search and analyze the FBI's massive database using parameters like *modus operandi*, clothing, tattoos, associates, cars, and so forth, as well as retrieve information on criminal activity hotspots and crime trends. Likewise, COPLINK organizes vast quantities of data to provide investigative leads to help solve crimes faster. It also allows information sharing amongst regional, statewide and national agencies.

Doing More with Less

Cloud computing is eliminating the need for expensive computers with the fastest computing power and massive data storage memories. Now, inexpensive computers with software sufficient to connect to the cloud system will do. Large hard drives are not needed since data is stored on the cloud's servers. In most cases, a netbook, a tablet like an iPad®, or even a smartphone, will be adequate. However, sufficient broadband capability for rapid downloads and uploads is still required.

As computing power and memory grow well beyond what can be carried in a vehicle, automakers are jumping on the cloud computing bandwagon. Ford already offers its cloud-based SYNC®, powered by Microsoft®, in many Ford products for infotainment, navigation, wireless smartphones and real-time traffic information. It is also using Google Prediction API to analyze the vast amount of data needed to optimize vehicle performance and fuel economy for individual driver behavior and traffic conditions. For example, a Google aided Ford Escape Hybrid EV prototype adjusts the powertrain or switches from gasoline to electricity by predicting where the vehicle is headed and how it is being driven.

The latest version of BMW ConnectedDrive lets drivers compose and send short E-mails or text messages without taking their hands off the wheel or their eyes off the road by using advanced speech recognition technology. The millions of words of vocabulary and the ability to read text in six languages requires "cloud" remote servers, rather than onboard memory and computers.



The FBI's Law Enforcement National Data Exchange (N-DEx) is one example of cloud computing already being used by law enforcement.

Law Enforcement Applications

Cloud computing is great for larger organizations, such as police departments, because there is no need to purchase software or a software license for each computer. Also, real estate is not needed for servers and digital storage devices. While cloud computing companies may charge fees for their services, these will be far less than investments in individual hardware and software.

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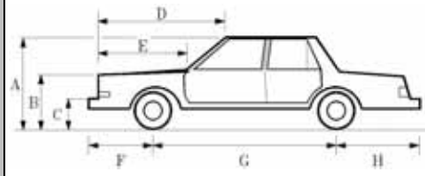

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for IT staff to maintain and repair computer systems and software. Unfortunately, it means loss of jobs for IT professionals. However, many will migrate to the cloud servers where the bulk of the computer load has now shifted.

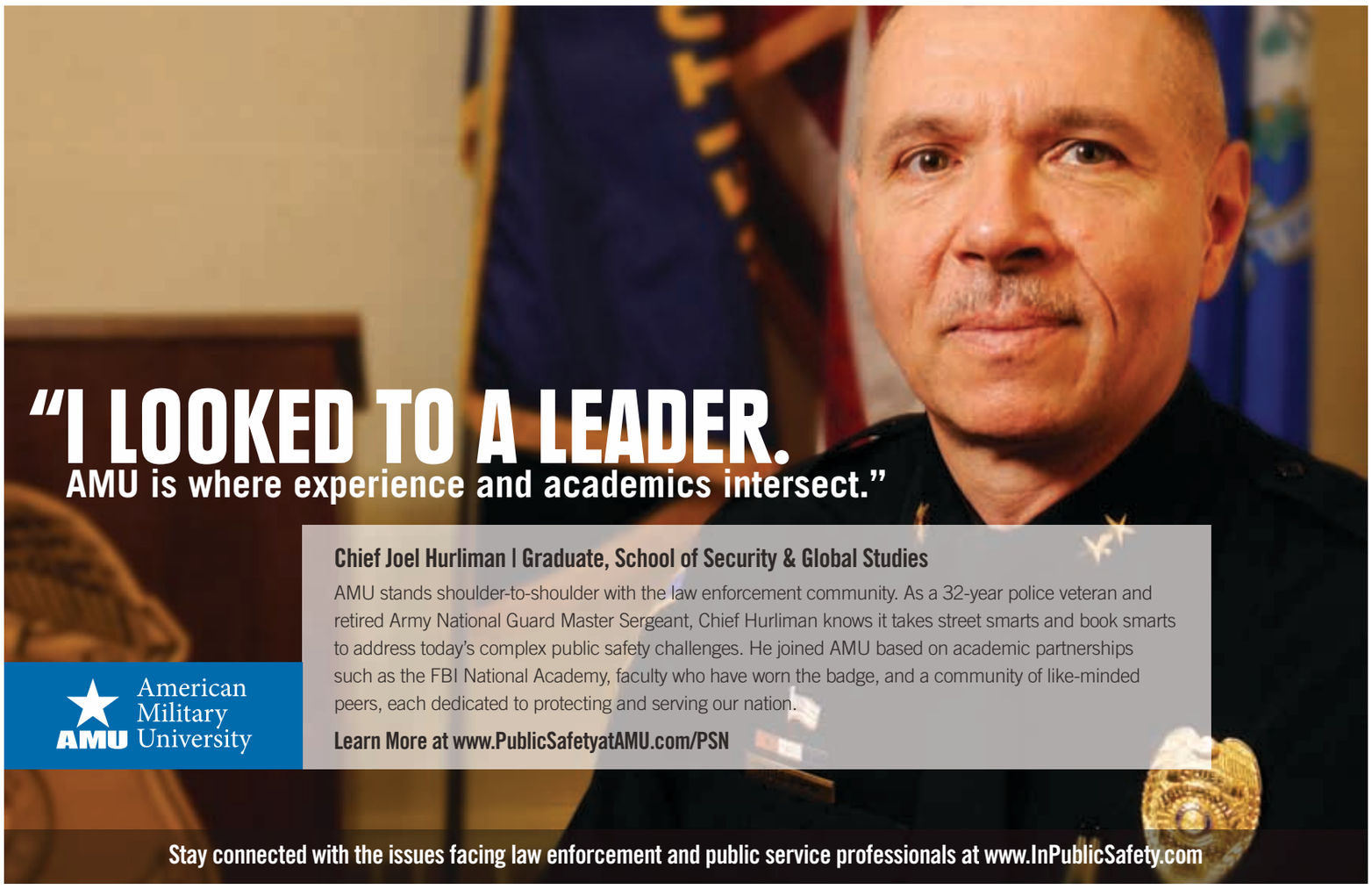
Security

Security and privacy are two big concerns with cloud computing – especially in law enforcement. That is because cloud computing means handing over important, and often sensitive, information to an outside organization, the third-party server. Thus, the FBI requires all cloud products sold to U.S. law enforcement agencies comply with the FBI's Criminal Justice Information Systems security standards.

Companies offering cloud computing services must invest in the most advanced and reliable security measures to preserve their reputations and stay in business. If you still have concerns about a company's ability to provide security, carefully check their physical monitoring and personnel background check procedures.

Since information and applications on the cloud can be accessed from anywhere at any time using any device with Web access, user ID and password diligence is vital. For example, use strong passwords and change them frequently. Also, compartmentalize the information on the cloud with separate passwords, so that each user can only access data and applications needed to do his (or her) job.

About the Author: Bill Siuru is a retired USAF colonel. He has a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Arizona State University. His military assignments included teaching engineering at West Point, commander of the research laboratory at the U.S. Air Force Academy and Director of Engineering at Wright-Patterson AFB. For the past 35 years, he has been writing about automotive, aviation and technology subjects.



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Dedicated Short Range Communications

Bill Siuru, Ph.D., PE

DSRC utilizes vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-roadside communications technology for enhancing transportation safety and improving highway efficiency.

Someday in the future, police cars, as well as fire trucks and ambulances, will be able to tell drivers to give way via warnings through their vehicles' audio systems and dashboard displays. Rather than sirens and flashing lights, cops could tell drivers to pull over during a traffic stop in the same way. Then, police officers could warn all drivers in the area that they are stopped at the side of the road to prevent rear-end collisions, especially around curves in bad weather.

Drivers could be warned of accidents which have just happened using communications from the first vehicles on the scene or even the vehicles involved in the accident. Disabled or crashed cars could communicate directly with first responders to cut wait times and, using GPS, tell their exact locations.

More Uses Coming

These are just some of the potential applications for Dedicated Short Range Communications (DSRC) which includes vehicle-to-vehicle (V2V) and vehicle-to-infrastucture (V2I) communications. For about a decade or so, researchers, manufacturers and transportation companies have been working on DSRC technology which includes in-vehicle equipment so that vehicles can talk to one another; sensors to collect traffic information; infrastructure equipment to communicate with vehicles; and computers to manage everything.

As one example of how DSRC could improve safety, when a vehicle detects a hazard such as a stalled vehicle in the road ahead, it could inform other drivers. Electronic sensors in cars would detect abrupt changes in its path or speed and send an appropriate message to surrounding, and following, vehicles.

As another example, DSRC could be used at intersections to determine which vehicle has the right to pass first and alert all of the drivers. Of course, it could turn all the signal lights red when an emergency vehicle approaches, but it can also warn all vehicles in the area.

As sort of high-tech turn signals, turning vehicles could inform other vehicles that they intend to turn or change lanes on a freeway. DSRC

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warnings at railroad crossings could cut the number of vehicles hit by trains or trucks hitting low bridge underpasses. DSRC would be especially helpful at night and in other poor visibility conditions.

Pursuit Applications

Besides warning drivers about police activity ahead and augmenting, or even replacing, sirens and lights, DSRC would be used to shut down vehicles to avoid high-speed chases. It could be used to identify stolen or unlicensed vehicles. Like so many other technologies, new applications will be found as the technology comes into widespread use.

While safety is the primary focus for passenger cars, commercial fleets could benefit greatly from the better fuel economy aspects. For example, there is great benefit in knowing when a light will turn red. A truck stopping and then accelerating requires a lot of fuel. When the vehicles ahead hit their brakes, drivers will be alerted to slow down so they don't have to slam on the brakes. Anything done to avoid stopping a truck moving at high speed, or to help it stop, helps both fuel economy and safety. Being warned in real time about congestion and traffic jams so that alternative routes can be taken saves both fuel and time.

There have been several on road demonstrations of the technology, especially in Europe. Much of this technology is now being demonstrated in

The in-vehicle display and audio warnings could also alert drivers to police activity.

a large field test in Michigan. The demonstration involves about 3000 DSRC equipped cars, trucks, buses, and trailers. For several months, they will traverse about 75 miles of roadways equipped with stoplights and other infrastructure devices with DSRC links.

Making It Happen

Based on the results, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) could mandate DSRC in passenger vehicles by 2013. This could be followed in 2014 by a mandate for DSRC in heavy-duty trucks. While the benefits can be significant, the Feds question whether the technology will be adopted if it is not mandated.

DSRC will require lots of computer power and data storage – probably more than can be accommodated in vehicles. Therefore, cloud computing will probably be required in vehicles which have minimal computer capability, and heavy computer duty and memory storage will be done by third-party servers, with wireless Internet used for connecting vehicles to the "cloud."

Even if DSRC is mandated for new vehicles, it will be some time before the full benefits are seen, since unequipped vehicles which can't take advantage of it will be on the road for many years. Today, the average age of cars and trucks on U.S. roads is 10.8 years. However, DSRC which could be retrofitted into older vehicles could resolve this problem.

About the Author: Bill Siuru is a retired USAF colonel. He has a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from Arizona State University. His military assignments included teaching engineering at West Point, commander of the research laboratory at the U.S. Air Force Academy, and Director of Engineering at Wright-Patterson AFB. For the past 35 years, he has been writing about automotive, aviation, and technology subjects.

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Are Police Dogs Really Reliable?

NEWS

A lawsuit filed by two Nevada Highway Patrol K-9 troopers and a consultant claims that the dogs' handlers inadvertently cued their animals and that their influence over the dogs led to false positives – thus, violating suspects' Fourth Amendment rights. In other words, the dogs' signals which provided probable cause for a search may have stacked the deck against citizen privacy.

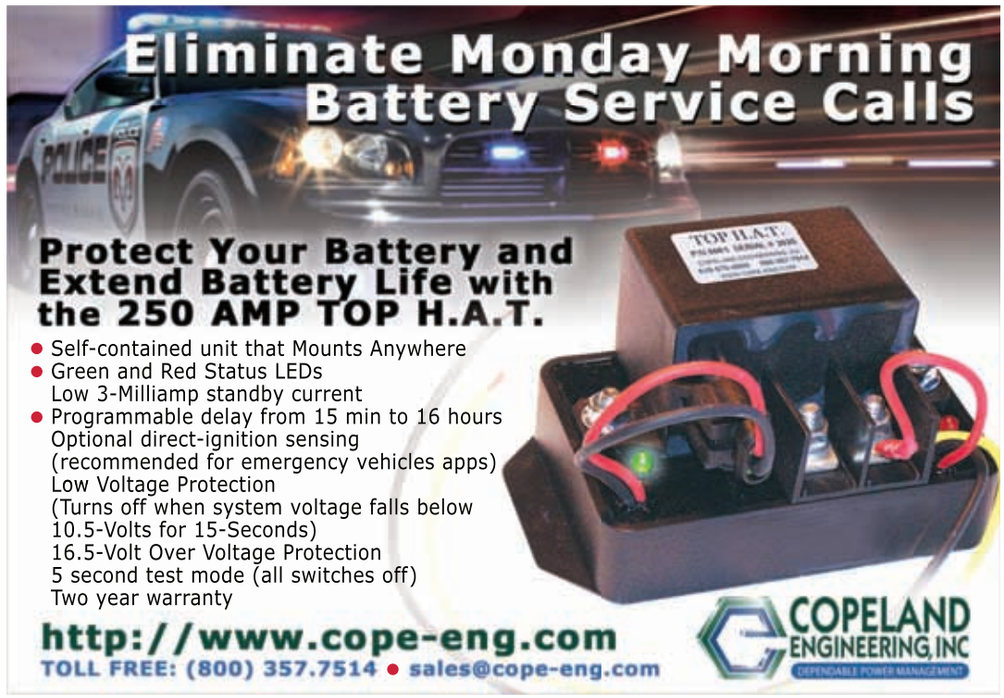
The lawsuit is backed by 2010 research from the University of California-Davis which put 18 K-9 teams through 144 test runs through a room they said contained drugs and explosives. But, the room contained nothing so, to pass the test, the teams had only to detect nothing. However, just 21 runs had this result – an 85 percent failure rate. Researchers concluded that handler cues were the problem.

The same year, a month following the UC-Davis research, the *Chicago Tribune* published a study of three years' worth of Illinois police department drug searches. The dogs' alerts were accurate less than half the time in that study which dropped to just 27 percent when drivers were of Latino descent. Although police argued that the dogs were alerting to drug residue, no research exists as to how much residue needs to be present for a dog to scent it or to factor in other variables such as dog breed, experience, and so forth.

In fact, minimal research exists about drug dogs' efficacy which means the field remains ungoverned by scientifically backed standards. Many K-9 officers criticized the UC-Davis study for its methodology, but others said it highlighted problems with training and accountability. Even so, few K-9 teams are willing to participate in further research.

The lawsuit alleges that the dogs were improperly trained to signal for drugs in anticipation of getting a treat or a toy. These led to abuses such as racial profiling; animal cruelty on the officers' part; and illegal searches, even at distribution centers for businesses like FedEx®. It also alleges that monies seized during stops were misappropriated when, in fact, owing to the dogs' false positives, the cash never had anything to do with drugs.

It could have far-reaching impact on criminal cases in Nevada, as defense attorneys review and, possibly, even appeal clients' cases. That dogs can result in probable cause for search may itself be challenged at some point. However, the Nevada Department of Public Safety has said the lawsuit is the brainchild of disgruntled officers.



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Richard Johnson

The next generation version of the PoliceOne Academy Online Training Platform is now available with over 400 short format training courses and a repository of 500 training videos.

During the past 40 years, video-based training for law enforcement has greatly evolved. Old videos were dry and boring – a "just the facts" presentation. In the '80s, this began to change.

J.D. "Buck" Savage was a fictional cop created by officer and trainer Dave Smith. The Buck Savage series of videos were humorous demonstrations of what *not* to do as a cop. No one who survived the police academy in the '80s or '90s likely made it through without learning the key Buck Savage phrases, "Watch the hands, rookie" or "Saw drunk, arrested same."

Buck Savage may have been an example of what not to do, but the videos were attention getting and made officers think about how they handled calls. This was a major step forward for law enforcement video training.

Dash Cam Videos

The '90s really changed law enforcement video training, as more and more departments were installing cameras in patrol cars. These "dash cam" videos suddenly became a witness to violence against cops and they became a staple in many officer survival courses.

I will never forget sitting in the academy and watching the video of South Carolina Trooper Mark Coates being shot on a traffic stop. That video shook me to the core and it caused me to change my mental approach to law enforcement. On at least one occasion, I know the lessons I learned from that video saved my life.

Now, in the 21st century, distribution is changing video training. No longer do you have to order and wait for a videotape to show up in the mail. You can instantly watch a training video on your computer or smart phone anywhere you have access to the Internet.

Online Training

The PoliceOne Academy is an online training solution which offers real benefits to departments which want to provide officers with high quality, on demand training; track every officer's training record; automate annual training requirements;

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A screen shot from "Questions to Ask During a Drug Interdiction Stop," a short format training course

enhance officer knowledge in a wide range of law enforcement topics; and reduce the time needed to effectively manage a training program.

The PoliceOne Academy takes advantage of the latest technology to provide online, video-based training to police departments. The Academy offers a wide range of video courses and a robust tracking system to ensure that cops get great training and departments can document it.

More than 500 video courses covering more than 40 different topic areas are included in the PoliceOne Academy. Just a few of the topic areas are firearms, defensive tactics, crime scene investigation, narcotics investigations, corrections, K-9, pursuit and report writing. With very few exceptions, videos are provided in high-definition (HD) and all new videos currently being produced are in HD.

The PoliceOne Academy training video library includes more than 120 experts from all over the United States. This gives the officers varied perspectives on topics.

Short Format Courses

The majority of the video training in the Academy is presented in a short format course and run from about two minutes to around ten minutes. The course includes a short quiz at the end of each video.

These courses can be used to replace classroom training or as a training supplement. They can be assigned to the entire department, to individuals or set up as roll call training. It is likely that, in even the busiest agencies, an officer can find time to squeeze in a couple of these training videos every week.

I reviewed several dozen of the short format classes and found them to be very good. Like many cops, I gravitate toward the officer survival and shooting classes, but I also forced myself to review some of the other topic areas, including ethics and dispatch communications.

Some of the videos were as short as two minutes, but I found most to be around five minutes which was plenty of time to convey a single idea.

Roll Call Training

Roll call training is very easy with the PoliceOne Academy. The sergeant pulls up the training video, ticks the box next to the officers' names in a list and plays the video. Once the video is completed, the system automatically records that each of those officers attended the training.

The roll call training courses are the same as the short format videos. The only difference is how your department decides to assign them: individually to an officer or to a group training at roll call.

Including the supervisor led discussion of the training topic, a department can determine each roll call training session to be .25 hours of training. If one new video is shown and discussed each week, an officer will accrue one hour of continuing education each month; in other words, four roll call videos equal one hour of training credit.

This video topic page displays some of the available video titles, along with the associated quiz.

Long Format Classes

In addition to the hundreds of short format videos, the PoliceOne Academy offers long format video courses which offer more in-depth training for topics not adequately covered in a shorter format. Long format courses combine video with text and slides for a more interactive experience. To assist with information retention, officers can take notes in the system as the video course is playing.

While participating in a long format course, an officer can stop and leave the program at anytime. When he (or she) returns to the course later, the system will automatically pick up where the officer left off. This is especially handy for officers taking a long format course between calls for service.

According to PoliceOne, the company is continuing to build up the long format course library. In addition to the dozens of long format videos currently available, the company is working to produce additional video classes on crowd management, dynamic search warrants, firearms tactics and more.

Training Management

Videos are only one part of the PoliceOne Academy. The second, equally important feature is the training management infrastructure.

Rather than reinventing the wheel, the PoliceOne Academy partnered with TargetSolutions, a professional e-learning system in the fire and EMS industries, to provide the back end management and training tracking solutions. This allows PoliceOne to focus on creating law enforcement training and it gives subscribing agencies a proven platform from which to manage the training.

The TargetSolutions management and tracking system is very flexible and offers a lot of capabilities to the training administrator. Once the employee information is added to the system, the administrator can begin making assignments to individual officers, groups of officers or the entire department, merely by checking the appropriate boxes in the management menus.

Officers (or groups of officers) can then be assigned any number of courses with custom start and

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"due by" dates. The officer will not see the assigned course until the start date. This allows a trainer to set up any number of classes for an officer without overwhelming the officer taking the training.

For example, the training administrator could set up training for the department ahead of time when he (or she) is going to be on vacation. Taken even farther, an administrator could set up an entire year's training program in an afternoon and not have to worry about it until the following year.

The system tracks when an officer completes the training, and it will send reminders to the officer and notifications to the administrator when training is not completed on time.

Quizzes are presented at the end of each training course to ensure the officer retained the most important points in the video. The administrator can also set the videos to a "no scroll" setting which

New Use-of-Force Policy Intended to Improve Police/Community Relations in Las Vegas

NEWS

Following its six month review of a series of officer involved shootings in Las Vegas County (Nevada), the sheriff's office has announced changes to its use-of-force policy which had not been updated since the 1990s.

Central to the new policy is a change in language which adheres to a 2002 Justice Department report which states an emphasis on how respect for human life can reduce deadly force incidents. The Las Vegas policy language commits the agency to "protecting people, their property and rights" and that "the application of deadly force is a measure to be employed in the most extreme circumstances."

The new policy focuses more heavily on de-escalating critical situations, taking into account that civilians may not understand how serious it is not to comply with police orders. In those situations, deputies are advised not to use force, but, rather, when possible, to use a range of decisions and tactics to reduce situations' intensity. That includes using nonlethal force only when the officer is being imminently threatened and not to force a subject's compliance; even then, officers are now required to warn subjects before deploying a TASER® or pepper spray, and to give them one last chance to comply before deployment.

The policy is being backed up by training, including reality-based scenarios to take place three to four times annually. It will also emphasize accountability, including asking officers to stop peers from using excessive force and to report their observations to a supervisor. On the other hand, it doesn't require officers to track the times they unholster their sidearms, as officers in Washington, DC, must.

Additionally, Las Vegas' sheriff is awaiting a Justice Department review which is expected to recommend further changes, including retooling of the civilian/officer Use of Force Review Board. In 22 years of operation, it has cleared officers from facing disciplinary action more than 97 percent of the time.

In 2010, Las Vegas officers shot and killed Trevon Cole and Erik Scott, and officers were involved with five shootings in the first half of 2012 – the lowest number for a first half in ten years. Las Vegas police have been known, and criticized, for their aggressive approach to incidents. The change of policy reflects a change in overall department culture which the sheriff says is already being reflected in officer conversations on and off scene.

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The 2nd Annual IPICD ACE (Agitated Chaotic Event™) awards will take place at the 2012 IPICD conference in Las Vegas. The award will be presented to one or more officers who were confronted with an individual who responded to and was involved in an agitated chaotic event and who applied their training and skills to mediate the situation. An Agitated Chaotic Events™ includes, but is not limited to: excited delirium; mental illness; suicide-by-cop; or similar situation.

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An image taken from a high risk K-9 operations training video

prevents an officer from skipping to the end of a video without watching it.

The PoliceOne Academy allows the administrator to set up a custom template for course completion certificates. When the officer completes the training, the certificate is automatically generated and sent to the officer for his (or her) records.

The main system administrator can give other trainers access to various levels of the system, depending on their needs. This allows sergeants to present roll call training, for example.

Other capabilities in the PoliceOne Academy management system include equipment inspection reports; vehicle inspection reports; certification and license tracking/management; incident tracking (pre and post for later analysis); secure forums to allow department members to exchange information within their organization; a bulletin board to disseminate information to all officers; and customization of the system's look by uploading a department's logo, etc.

Custom Content

Administrators can upload their own custom training programs into the PoliceOne Academy for department use. This ability would allow department trainers to present a course while being videotaped and then the video can be used for refresher training in the future.

Tests can be created inside the PoliceOne Academy to go with the uploaded video courses. The test creation inside the Academy is SCORM-compliant which is a Web-based instructional standard developed by the US Department of Defense. Additionally, the PoliceOne Academy is designed to work with Articulate software for a more robust, SCORM-compliant testing solution, if desired by the administrator.

System Requirements

The PoliceOne Academy works on any modern Mac®- or Windows®-based Web browser and is 100% compatible with all mobile devices. Mobile device compatibility includes the popular iPhone® and iPad® devices which do not use Adobe Flash®.

The video serving is provided by Brightcove which allows the video to be streamed to virtually any device without buffering delays. This means the video starts quickly and is not subject to unexpected pauses while the system is downloading the video.

I tested the videos by watching them on a desktop computer with an Ethernet connection, a laptop on a public WiFi spot and using an iPhone with a 3G cellular connection. The videos ran smoothly across all platforms.

On Duty

Currently, the PoliceOne Academy serves more than 120 public and private agencies and departments of all sizes use it – from rural agencies to major agencies like the Dallas Police Department.

The Police One Academy offers a single solution for both training and training management. The system automates many of the processes, from scheduling training to record keeping to printing course completion certificates. While the videos are high quality and do an excellent job at conveying information, many departments will be interested in the Academy just from its ability to streamline many of the record keeping processes.

About the Author: Richard Johnson is a police officer and trainer with a mid-sized police department in Central Florida. He operates the police training Web site, BlueSheepdog (www.bluesheepdog.com).

To learn more about the PoliceOne Academy, call (800)840-8047, visit the Web site at www.policeoneacademy.com or E-mail info@policeoneacademy.com.

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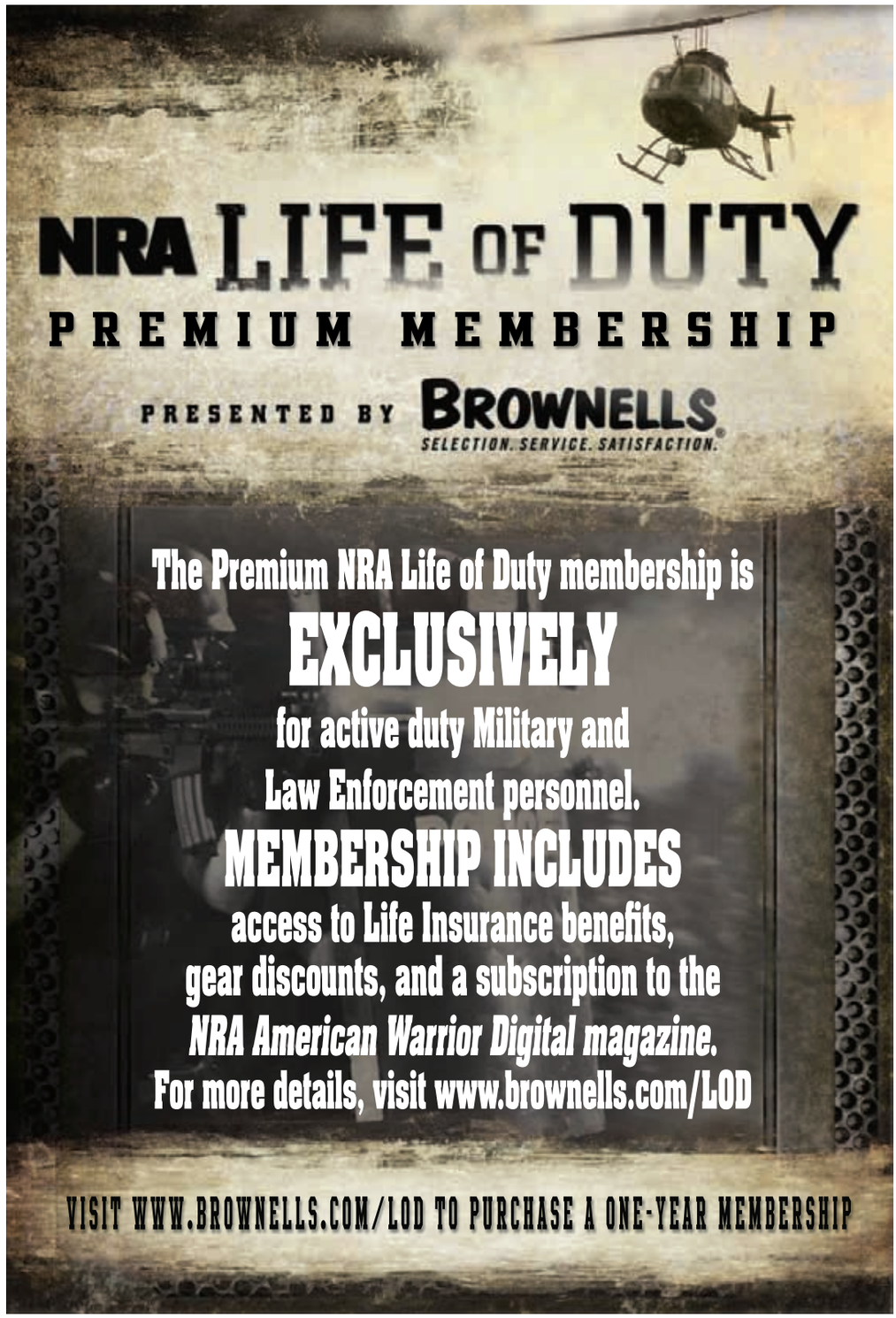

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Micro-Nines:

The Snubs of the 21st Century

Concealed carry handguns used by today's law enforcers are very different from those of a generation ago. In the not so distant past, rookie cops saved their lunch money in order to buy a snub revolver for off duty carry.

Mike Boyle

Today, even the term "snub" may be unfamiliar to 21st century warriors. For those who came in late, it might be best described as a small or medium frame revolver with a short (two inch to 2 1/2 inch) barrel.

A quarter of a century ago, "automania" took hold and cops everywhere were trading off their traditional revolvers for a self-loading pistol. In a few short years, the big switch was just about complete and, except for a few old-timers, it's rare to encounter a police officer carrying a revolver in a duty holster.

Over time, the handguns which law enforcement officers have come to prefer for discreet carry have also changed. While small frame revolvers are still used in this role, most officers are far more comfortable using technology which functions like their service handgun.

The arms manufacturers have obliged and one can now select either a compact or subcompact version of most of the contemporary service pistols. These downsized variants have proven especially popular for many – if not most – concealed carry applications. On the downside, they are a bit chunky and don't lend themselves for low profile carry under light clothing. They also tend to be too heavy or too large to serve as a backup gun for the uniformed patrol officer. These roles were once dominated by the snub revolver.

A Colt® Detective Special, manufactured in 1975

Small pocket pistols have existed for over 100 years and are indeed handy, but come up short in one critical area. Stopping potential is vastly inferior to the service caliber cartridges used in our duty pistols. Reliability is often an issue in this class of pistol, making it a less than optimum candidate for defensive applications.

The New Snub

Of late, an entirely new breed of pistol has made an impact on the market. The micro-nines are typically fresh designs not based on an existing service pistol platform. These pistols are roughly the same size as many classic pocket designs and are considerably thinner than either the compact or subcompact models. True, micro pistols are also available in .40 S&W or .45 ACP, but the 9mm variants seem to be the most popular. The micro-nines can easily fill the niche which was once the exclusive turf of the .38 Special snub revolver and offer even greater capabilities.

A Better Mousetrap

For discreet carry, micro-nine pistols hold any number of advantages over other handguns used in this role. While a small .380 ACP can be hidden more easily, the micro-nine enjoys a huge performance advantage. Muzzle energy is approximately twice that of a .380 ACP which translates to superior stopping potential.

At a recent ballistic workshop, a number of highly regarded .380 ACP and 9mm loads were fired into 10% ordnance gelatin covered with four layers of denim. Even when fired from pistols with barrel lengths of 3.5 inches or less, all of the 9mm loads penetrated to optimum levels and expanded to 1.5 times their original diameter. The only .380 ACP load which expanded reliably was COR®BON/Glaser, Inc.'s 80-grain DPX hollow point. Most other loads failed to break 900 fps when fired through a Ruger® LCP® and recovered bullets exhibited only minor deformation.

With the better .38 Special loads, performance is much improved, but not on par with the 9mm. Snub revolvers, however, have a pretty steep

The 9mm is no pushover when high performance ammunition is used.

learning curve, particularly for officers who cut their teeth on an autopistol. The micro-nines hold a slight advantage in ballistic potential, hold more ammunition, and are easier to reload. Even this snub aficionado will admit that the micro-nine may be the better tool.

I have long advocated carrying the biggest gun you can effectively hide. Hot summer weather and light clothing can make this a challenge – even when we're talking chopped and channeled subcompacts. The height and length of micro-nines and subcompacts really aren't much different, but the width is. These thin, lightweight pistols are easy to camouflage on a belt or stash in a pants pocket.

The current crop of micro-nines is fairly extensive and I've had the opportunity to check out a few different models. My experience is limited to a few different offerings, but, to date, I'm very impressed with what I've encountered. Let's take a close look to see what they have to offer.

Kahr Arms

Kahr Arms markets a most extensive line of 9mm pistols, with close to 30 variants available. One can choose a Kahr pistol with either a stainless or polymer frame in three different size ranges. In addition to their top of the line offerings, Kahr also turns out a "C" series of plain-vanilla pistols minus some of the frills of their premium line, but with equally good shooting qualities.

Last year, I picked up a Kahr K9 which quickly became a frequent carry companion. This all stainless steel pistol measures 6.0 inches long and stands 4.5 inches tall. The width is a scant 0.90 inches wide, making the K9 very easy to conceal on a belt under soft clothing. Kahr pistols have a user-friendly, Double-Action-Only (DAO) trigger system and a very simple manual of arms. In my hand, shooting qualities are only a step or so behind my preferred service pistol.

The all steel K9 tips the scale at 24 ounces which is a tad too heavy for pocket or ankle carry. If a lighter or smaller bullet launcher is desired, consider the Kahr PM9 with a shorter grip frame

Kahr's PM9 has a 3.1 inch barrel.

and a 3.1 inch barrel. With its 6+1 capacity, the PM9 has a greater payload than a like-sized pistol and the performance of its 9mm cartridge leaves the .380 ACP in the dust.

Several of my associates have come to favor the Kahr line of pistols and their choices include examples from the budget "C" series. Kahr also builds like-sized pistols in .40 S&W and .45 ACP for users who prefer heavier calibers.

Kimber Solo®

The Kimber Solo is a premium quality 9mm hideout crafted from aluminum alloy and stainless steel. In profile, it looks similar to the old Colt® 1908 pistol, but its performance capabilities are

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The Kimber Solo® sports many features borrowed from 1911 pistols.

in a whole different league. Like the 1911 offerings in the extensive Kimber line, the Solo has a single-action trigger, but, mechanically, it is a totally different design.

Users with significant trigger time on the 1911 will be right at home with the Kimber Solo. Vital controls are in the same familiar location and both the frame mounted safety and magazine release are ambidextrous. The Solo is a hammerless design and about seven pounds of rearward pressure on the trigger will drop the striker. Its total capacity is 6+1 rounds.

When the Solo first hit the market, it was subjected to some criticism, as some shooters tried to make it run with low impulse training ammunition. Kimber has made it clear that optimum function is achieved with premium hollow point ammunition and bullets weighing between 124- to147-grains. Your gun may cycle with other loads, but why take a chance.

Stout loads in the 17 ounce Solo are a bit snappy, but not anything a seasoned shooter can't manage. This lightweight, snag-resistant pistol has much to offer.

Ruger LC9™

When the Ruger LCP .380 ACP first came out a few years back, I just had to have one. I'm not all warm and fuzzy about any .380 ACP as a primary carry piece, but I felt the LCP had merit as a backup. The newer LCP 9mm encompasses the desirable attributes of the LCP in a package which is only slightly larger.

The LC9 mates a glass filled nylon frame with an alloy steel barrel and slide. Although it weighs only 17 ounces, the synthetic frame dissipates the transmission of recoil to the shooting hand and firing the LC9 is not at all an unpleasant experience. Rounded contours of the LC9 make it relatively snag-free when drawing from underneath a layer of clothing.

Ruger outfits the LC9 with a set of adjustable three dot combat sights – a big improvement over the setup found on the original LCP. End users can upgrade to either the Crimson Trace Laserguard® or the LaserMax CenterFire™ laser sight systems. The original LCP has certainly met with a great deal of success; however, the LC9 in 9mm has

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Too Little Oversight for Civilian Police Volunteers, Study Shows

Civilians who volunteer to work in law enforcement agencies have few to no standards governing their actions, research by the on-line magazine, *The Crime Report*, has found. Instead, the way civilians operate is determined by individual agencies which might oversee programs from neighborhood watches all the way up through uniformed auxiliaries.

Civilians do help stretch agencies' manpower – both in terms of providing more watching and listening resources and in terms of actual action they sometimes take. In many communities – especially out West – reserve officers can perform menial tasks which enable sworn officers to focus on more serious needs.

However, it's the action which results in criticism: Civilians don't receive the same training sworn officers do, often because the agencies which use them don't have the funds to train them. Those who act, even if they perceive that their actions are justified to protect themselves or their communities, can overstep civilian boundaries – even as far as vigilantism, the criticism in the shooting of Trayvon Martin. In other cases, a community's over-reliance on its civilian groups can delay needed police response.

Either can damage police/community relations, especially when citizens perceive that police are ignorant of civilian volunteers' actions. Anticipating this, some agencies – and the state of Illinois - have begun to require the same training for civilians which officers receive. Still, those costs can be prohibitive for many agencies. Some Illinois jurisdictions had to end their programs because they couldn't afford to maintain them under the new rules.

Some agencies control training costs by granting levels of authority to their volunteers: the more training, the more authority. However, even training civilians can come at a disadvantage when civilians are given uniforms and marked cars, but remain unarmed.

This visibility, especially if the agency relies more heavily on volunteers, can be dangerous. In New York City, auxiliary police have batons, ballistic vests, and radios; they do not have any arresting powers but a private citizen's arrest powers, meaning they can only arrest when a crime is committed in their presence. An arrestee who goes unconvicted can then sue for false imprisonment or assault.

Civilians who look like police risk assault; although, some believe that looking more like police provides an additional layer of protection. Others think that they should have "peace officer" status in order to collect disability and other benefits; although, police unions argue that this cuts into overtime pay for sworn officers.

Should national standards be implemented? In Texas, a bill is being drafted which would require neighborhood watches be certified and would limit their authority. Other measures would standardize background checks for volunteers. Even so, as with regular employees, such checks can miss deeper issues and localities do not have to comply with standards, such as those set forth by the National Sheriffs Association. And, existing volunteers worry that implementing too many standards will drive volunteers away.

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Ruger's LC9™ is a double-action-only, hammer-fired pistol.

much more to offer. The slight penalty in size and weight is more than a fair tradeoff for upgrading to 9mm.

SIG SAUER®

SIG SAUER currently offers two micro-nine pistols which are as different as night and day. Depending on your prospective, one may be just right for you.

Two years ago, SIG introduced the P290, a DAO micro pistol with a polymer frame. The P290 is among the smaller pistols included in this review, with an overall length of 5.5 inches. This little pistol is just under four inches tall with a width of 0.90 inches. Despite its 2.9 inch barrel, it still delivers a pretty stout punch. The long DAO trigger requires a very deliberate pull, making it ideal for carry in a pocket or bag.

This year, SIG upsized their single-action P238 .380 ACP to create the slightly longer P938 in 9mm. Comparisons to the classic 1911 are unavoidable and officers who are comfortable with cocked and locked carry will find the P938 especially appealing. The P938 is 5.9 inches long and weighs in at 16 ounces. An ambidextrous safety makes operation easy for both left- and right-handed shooters.

Smith & Wesson® M&P Shield™

Introduced in the spring of 2012, the Smith & Wesson M&P Shield has the potential to dominate this corner of the market. Like the full-size M&P, the striker-fired Shield combines a polymer frame with a stainless steel barrel and slide coated in black Melonite®. The trigger weight is rated at 6 1/2 pounds and the three dot combat sight system helps get you on target fast.

The barrel length of the Shield is 3.5 inches with a total length of 6.1 inches. The single stack grip frame is only 0.95 inches wide which makes the gun easy to hide. Both a seven round magazine which fits flush with the bottom of the grip frame and a slightly extended eight round magazine are included in the package.

To my thinking, the Shield represents a lot of gun for the money.

S&W's M&P Shield™ is available in either 9mm or .40 S&W.

Holsters

Any handgun used for concealed carry is only as good as the holster in which it rides. A properly designed holster should be fast to draw from, comfortable, and offer an optimum degree of security, as well as help hide the gun. Whenever possible, I prefer to wear my concealed carry pistol on a belt where it can be quickly brought into action.

My Kahr K9 has been worn with a trio of different holsters which bring slightly different qualities to the table. First up for consideration is the Mini-Scabbard from the Ritchie Leather Co., Inc.

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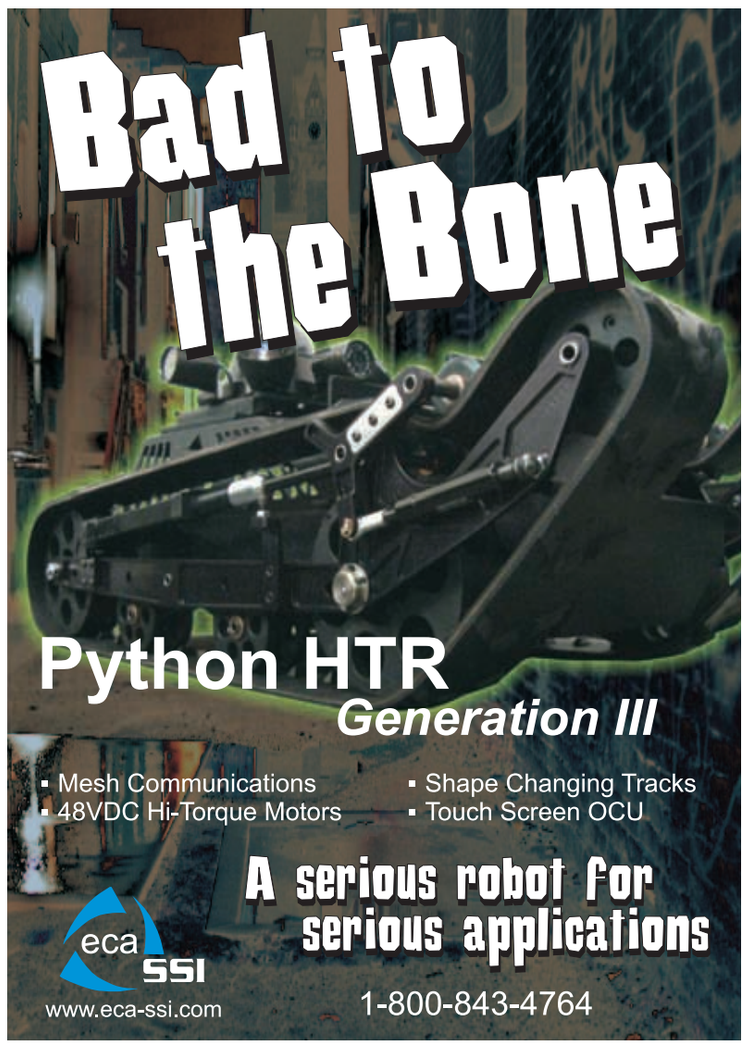

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Ritchie Leather Co.'s Mini-Scabbard

Made of eight ounce premium vegetable tanned cowhide, the open top Mini-Scabbard allows me to draw very quickly, yet precisely. Molding secures the pistol during periods of high physical activity. The mouth of the holster has been folded over for maximum strength and easy one-handed reholstering.

A second option, also available from the Ritchie Leather Co., is the In-between, worn between the pants and a belt. This holster splits the difference between a belt scabbard and an IWB rig. A loop with a pair of one-way snaps secures the In-between to the belt and the holstered pistol rides close to the body, enhancing concealment.

Many users, myself included, have comfort issues with IWB holsters. That is most unfortunate, as IWB rigs strike a very good balance between speed and concealability.

Recently, I became acquainted with the CrossBreed SuperTuck which essentially solved my problem. To say the least, the SuperTuck can hardly be categorized as a sexy design, but it may very well be the most comfortable IWB holster on the planet.

The SuperTuck consists of a supple inner panel made of premium leather and a KYDEX® shell molded to the shape of the gun. The leather panel prevents the gun from pressing against the hip which enables me to carry a pistol all day long in complete comfort. A pair of corrosion-proof SteelClips secure the pistol to the belt. If you've given up on IWB carry, try the CrossBreed SuperTuck and you may come to a different opinion.

Many of the small guns listed herein are entirely suitable for pocket carry. In order to make the most of this mode of carry, a holster to properly position the gun and protect it from the usual pocket detritus is required. High on my list would be the Nemesis® and Super Fly® from DeSantis Gunhide®. I have used a Nemesis with my LCP and examples are available for all the pistols mentioned here.

The Thinking Man's Choice

The micro-nine will continue to fill a similar role to the snub revolver of a bygone era. Snubs are never a bad choice, but the micro-nines are just a little bit better. Continuity of training and function between the officer's primary sidearm and the backup/off duty piece is maintained. Small pistols hold an advantage in ammunition capacity and generally have better sights and human engineering. Under life threatening stress, they can probably be shot to a higher standard.

The one quality which seals the deal is terminal performance. Cutting the barrel length to three inches or so does indeed reduce velocity, but not to the degree where it degrades performance. My 3.5 inch barrel Kahr K9 pushes Winchester® Ranger SXT® 147-grain hollow points downrange at 960 fps. Federal HST® 124-grain +P hollow points cruised along at 1152 fps in a recent test. Unlike the .380 ACP and .38 Special snub, several different 9mm loads will meet FBI performance criteria – even when fired through a micro-nine.

CrossBreed's SuperTuck IWB holster is comfortable.

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New York Police Find More Hidden Communal Guns

"Community," or shared, guns help criminals in New York City to commit more crimes which are harder to trace back to specific suspects. Mailboxes, garbage pails, wheel wells, and light pole bases all serve as storage for such weapons. Authorities are not sure how offenders market the guns' availability, location or other details; just that, when criminals want them, they know where to find them – and how to hide them from police postincident.

These small pistols are the perfect choice for either off duty or backup carry. There simply isn't much of a reason for going unarmed and these size efficient pistols will help many officers make the right choice.

About the Author: Captain Mike Boyle served with New Jersey Division of Fish & Wildlife, Bureau of Law Enforcement, and has been an active firearms instructor for more than 30 years. He has been an assistant police academy director and remains active as an academy rangemaster and instructor. Mike has served on the Board of Directors of the International Association of Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors (IALEFI) since 1996. He is the architect and coordinator of IALEFI's Master Instructor Development Program.

For more information on the companies featured in this article, circle the corresponding number on the reader service card.

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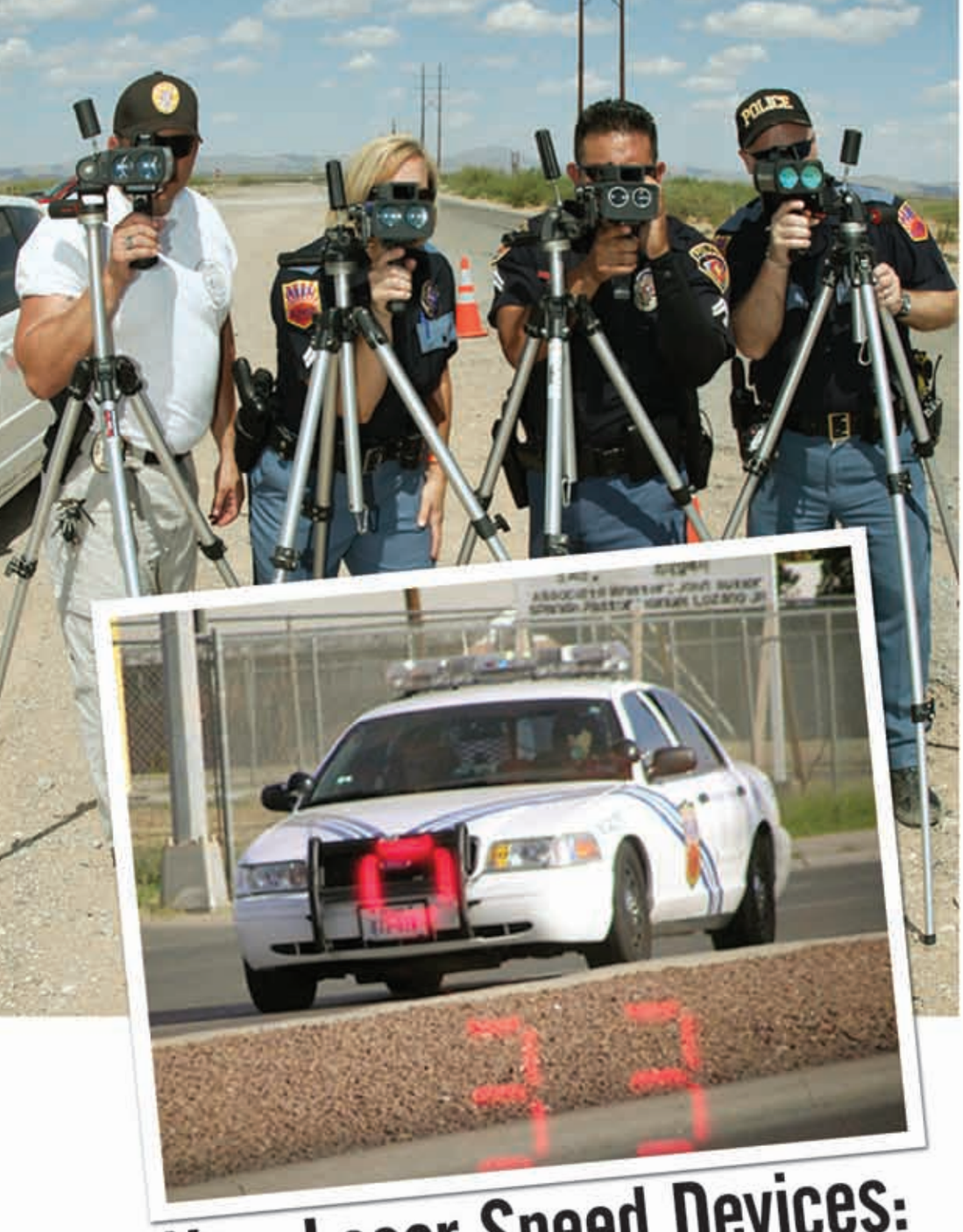

New Laser Speed Devices:

An Analysis of Performance and Features

Carl Fors, Speed Measurement Laboratories Inc.

"I've Got A Budget Of $18,000 For Laser Guns...What Should I Buy?"

We've heard this before. You need to know what laser guns can do and if they meet your officers' needs and not just your budget. Here is a performance guide:

Police laser guns have been with us since Laser Technology, Inc. introduced its 20/20 Marksman in 1991. These first laser guns were heavy (almost five pounds) and could only produce a single shot, not a continual tracking history! Officers continually complained about the laser gun's weight because it was built like a tank and felt like it. It was also challenged by the courts; i.e., New Jersey Superior Court, Judge Reginald Stanton, cite as: 314 N.J. Super. 233, 714 A. 2d 381. *Matter of Admissibility of Motor Speed Readings Produced by LTI Marksman 20/20 Laser Speed Detection System*, March 1998.

Admissibility in Court

Judge Stanton, in a long 18 month trial, ordered the New Jersey State Police to conduct extensive testing comparing the speeds of the LTI 20/20 Marksman laser gun to the now obsolete K-55 X band radar gun. Of the 1,908 comparisons, only 16 cases produced a speed variance between the two guns of more than one mile per hour or .08%. He accepted the laser gun with exceptions: "1) Officers must be properly trained in the use of LIDAR (LIght Detection And Ranging) and that training must be documented; 2) Readings shall not be accepted during heavy rainfall or while snow is falling; and 3) Speed readings made at distances up to 1,000 feet are admissible. Readings obtained in excess of 1,000 feet shall be admitted only with supporting evidence and expert witness testimony."

Judge Stanton ordered the "1,000 Foot Rule" because of the beam divergence of the laser gun. Laser can pinpoint one vehicle in a group; radar can't. The three milliradian laser beam, as produced by the LTI 20/20 Marksman, creates a beam width at 1,000 feet of 36 inches (three feet) compared to a typical radar gun of 212 feet. A 2.5 milliradian beam like Digital Ally's Laser Ally™ produces a beam width of 30 inches at 1,000 feet. Laser can only be used in the stationary mode and the officer's potential hand shaking was an issue with the court. Part of the laser beam might strike an adjacent vehicle producing a misidentification of the target vehicle. Speed Measurement Laboratories (SML) looked at this issue in its nationally published research article, *SML Report #SML08-12716*, ten years later. It found that, of the 2,648 comparisons of new radar and laser guns from all manufacturers, only .07% were in excess of +/- one mile per hour, confirming the New Jersey Court's findings. Are radar and laser gun speed readings the same? Yes! We recommended that when officers write a laser ticket, they put the distance at which the reading was gained. Several states have issued a statewide judicial notice for laser gun use. This means that police laser guns are accepted by all jurisdictions in the state. These states include Georgia,

Laser guns which use off-the-shelf batteries are preferable.

North Carolina, Virginia, Maine, Connecticut, Minnesota, and Florida.

Powering

A major concern of radar or laser gun use is powering – batteries always seem to go out when you need them most. Laser Technology, Inc. pioneered powering with the introduction of the LTI UltraLyte LR series. The LR series powers its units with off-the-shelf "C" cell batteries available almost everywhere. A motor officer could stop at a convenience store and "power up" with rechargeable "C" cell batteries instead of waiting for the next charge at headquarters. All of the new laser guns use off-the-shelf batteries; it is best to buy rechargeable batteries.

Some manufacturers have continued to offer battery packs for external powering of their laser guns. These battery packs are expensive to replace and the best solution is to buy laser guns powered by commonly available batteries.

Radar vs. Laser in Writing Tickets

Which system can write the most tickets? In metropolitan areas with rush hour traffic, it is laser. Ask any motor officer. It is almost two to one. Laser can pinpoint one vehicle in a group; radar can't! Several large departments use laser guns exclusively and this number is constantly growing. If you are constantly moving, like state police agencies, radar is best. Laser guns can't move.

Some new laser guns take pictures (if allowed in the local and state jurisdictions) which are stored on a commercially available "SD" card and the chain of evidence is preserved. Hold the trigger down and the laser gun goes immediately to video. Both developments provide evidence of speeding and are fairer to the officer and the driver. For decades, interfacing radar gun readings with dash cam video systems has taken place. On each video frame, the speed of the vehicle appears. How is a laser gun's ability to take a picture different? It isn't!

Laser Should Be Instantly On

A big issue, especially for motor officers, is that the laser should be instantly on and ready as speeders approach. It should also holster easily. The LTI UltraLyte LRB/S and Digital Ally's Laser Ally both do this with just a pull of the trigger.

The newest generation of laser guns is smaller and easier to use.

Most laser guns (old and new) require time to go through a setup procedure. If an officer is in a police car, this issue is diminished. Laser guns should be "on" when they are needed, as well as show the speed and distance in the Heads-Up Display (HUD) (instead of just showing speed with distance displayed on the rear panel).

Size and Ease of Use

The newest laser guns are smaller and weigh less. For example, the Kustom ProLite+ binocular and LTI's "S" weigh less than one pound. Displays

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Courts are increasingly requesting documentation that laser guns are being tested for accuracy.

should also be easy to read. Ideally, the HUD should display both speed and distance. The courts have consistently stated, "It is not necessary for the operator of the speed detection device to understand the scientific principles of the device as long as the operator properly operates and tests the unit." *Texas v. Sparks* – Case #PD381435-1.

Memory Log

We've long advocated a replacement for the written logbook of both radar and laser guns. It has finally arrived. Increasingly, courts are asking for evidence that the radar gun or laser gun has been tested for accuracy each day, not just pushing the test button which appears on guns. The test button only checks to see if the circuits are okay, not for transmission accuracy. The courts have ruled that transmission accuracy tests **must be** consistent with the operator's manual for the gun. According to the NHTSA, each department should determine the training and retraining of officers; the recertification of equipment, including tuning forks; and testing the device for accuracy. This is not a mandate, but a recommendation. The best advice is to do what the state police do in your state. Two years ago, Harris County (Houston), TX, took 100 radar units out of service as the tuning forks were lost and the officers had no training on the radar units.

The new Kustom Signals, Inc. ProLaser 4 has a feature giving birth to Memory Log. They call it an "Events" feature. Daily setup accuracy checks of "Known Distance" and "Vertical and Horizontal Sight Alignment" are stored in memory. The memory reports to the second, the date and time the officer checked the laser gun for accuracy. If the court mandates to produce this "evidence of accuracy checks," you can download the data via the gun's USB port. This is the beginning of the end of written logs of accuracy checks.

Inclement Weather Mode and Through the Windshield

To address Judge Stanton's objections of using laser in the rain or snow, Kustom Signals, Inc. announced the development of their "INClement Weather Mode" (INC/Weather) in 1999. The INC/Weather mode tells the laser's computer to disregard signals up to some 300 feet ahead, allowing use in adverse weather conditions. Further, new lasers can shoot through the windshield, eliminating limited out of car use in cold January temperatures. All new lasers have INC/Weather modes. We wanted to see if it was necessary to place the laser gun in the INC/Weather mode to shoot through the windshield and we wanted to see what affect the INC/Weather mode had on the laser's ability to target vehicles. It continually bothers me to see

All of the newest laser guns are capable of operating accurately through windshields.

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This Dodge® Caravan was used as a test vehicle.

Through the Windshield Test

Laser Gun	INC/Weather On Range/Speed	INC/Weather Off Range/Speed
Digital Ally's Laser Ally™	2,497 ft./55 mph	2,505 ft./53 mph
Kustom ProLaser III	2,278 ft./51 mph	2,065 ft./35 mph
Kustom ProLaser 4	1,462 ft./50 mph	1,265 ft./41 mph
Kustom ProLite + (binocular)	1,519 ft./50 mph	1,372 ft./40 mph
LTI LRB	1,448 ft./46 mph	1,319 ft./51 mph
LTI TruSpeed "S"(binocular)	1,883 ft./49 mph	2,096 ft./51 mph
Stalker LR	2,330 ft./54 mph	2,251 ft./53 mph

laser guns operated outside of the vehicle. Traffic permitting, park sideways and use laser through the side window. We conducted the test on U.S. 80 in Fort Worth, TX, in late July 2012 under the supervision of local police departments. We cleaned the windshield of our Dodge Caravan and used the laser guns in and out of their INC/Weather modes. Different laser makers use different connotations, with Stalker using "C" and the Kustom Signals, Inc. ProLite + using "Poor" for bad weather conditions. Some use the figures of a cloud and rain in the HUD. We used new and old laser guns in our comparison.

Seven laser guns were used for our "Through the Windshield Test." We compared the performance of the Kustom Signals, Inc.'s ProLaser III, ProLaser 4, and ProLite + binocular; Laser Technology, Inc.'s new binocular TruSpeed "S" and its LBR; Digital Ally's Laser Ally; and Stalker's new LR series. The Laser Ally has an "Obstructed Mode" which disregards tree branches and also features an Electronic CounterMeasure (ECM) to detect and report (and defeat) laser countermeasures.

Twenty-five states have legislation prohibiting radar or laser jammers, including Texas' new law, S.B. 1376, which bans both radar and laser jamming devices as of September 1, 2011. We did not include the Obstructed Mode. We used a four lane highway, U.S. 80 in Fort Worth, TX, with a crest of a hill at 3,000 feet. After vehicles reached the crest, they went out of sight. Each laser was given two tries with results divided by two. We shot all vehicles going away aiming at the vehicle's rear.

All laser guns reported within the 1,000 Foot Rule through the windshield regardless of whether they were in the INC/Weather modes or in the Normal Mode.

Range

We've already discussed the 1,000 Foot Rule as mandated by the New Jersey Superior Court. In (rule-following) Canada, officers were told not to issue speeding tickets past 1,000 feet (304.8 meters). The first thing they did was to see who was the "Distance King." Who could target at the greatest distance? We saw the same thing when we recently tested in El Paso, TX. Officers in both Canada and the U.S. wanted to know who the "Distance King" was among laser guns. To find out, we invited all laser gun makers to attend. Two of the manufacturers sent representatives and others sent equipment. Only certified police officers operated the laser guns and they were mounted on tripods to diminish hand shaking. We used a white Chevrolet Cruze as the target vehicle. Remember, the courts have ruled consistently that laser distance readings past 1,000 feet are questioned. Why? The Ohio Supreme Court ruled in *Barberton v. Jenny*, cite as *Barberton v. Jenny, 126 Ohio St. 3d 5, 2010-2420*, that an officer's "Valid Visual Tracking History" is the best evidence, saying, "A police officer's unaided visual estimation of a vehicle's speed is sufficient evidence to support a conviction for speeding without independent verification (radar or laser speed reading) if the officer is trained and certified." This Ohio Supreme Court Decision was rescinded by the Ohio Legislature by the enactment of HB 86 of September 30, 2011, # 4511.091 of the Revised Ohio Code. The legislation preserved the necessity of a Valid Visual Tracking History, but reinstated the use of police radar and laser speed measuring systems called *mechanical timing devices* in the legislation. If we put three white cars at 2,000 feet, it's impossible to tell which is the Ford, the Chevrolet, or the Dodge. This means that officers can't determine a Valid Visual Tracking History at that distance. If defense attorneys quote the New Jersey Superior Court ruling, a laser speed reading past 1,000 feet

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The Laser Ally™ scored highest in distance targeting.

will not be accepted on two grounds: It violates the 1,000 Foot Rule; and recognition distance is exceeded in establishing a Valid Visual Tracking History. Laser officers need to write the distance and speed reading on each citation.

We wanted to see which laser gun could report the greatest distance, although this **cannot** be used in court. Each laser gun was set in the "range only mode." The range/speed mode records slightly shorter distances. The scores are the average of two runs in each category; i.e., "Away from the Laser Gun" and "Toward the Laser Gun." Who could see the Chevy Cruze the farthest? Laser guns are presented in alphabetical order. We only tested those guns provided by the manufacturers which appear on the most recent Conforming Product List (CPL) of the International Association of Chiefs of Police in conjunction with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) as of April 30, 2012 (see **www.theiacp.org**). We did not test all laser guns as some are no longer being manufactured, but still approved by the CPL. Twenty-seven (old and new) laser guns are listed on the CPL.

These all share bragging rights and they all reported consistent with the 1,000 Foot Rule. If tomorrow we had the same officers operating the same laser guns, different distance scores would be reported. Laser range is determined by particulate matter in the atmosphere, humidity, elevation, competing signals and the amount of sunlight reflection. We further confirmed the laser readings in a field test in Fort Worth, TX, using tripods. The bottom line after this latest testing was not surprising – new is better than old! Laser gun use is now approaching 50% of radar or laser guns sold and used in metropolitan cities.

About the Author: Carl Fors, President of Speed Measurement Laboratories Inc., has 28 years of experience in field-testing radar and laser devices. He serves many jurisdictions as an expert witness in radar and laser gun trials and teaches NHTSA standard Master Radar and Laser Instructor Certification courses at law enforcement agencies here and abroad. For more information, visit www.speedinglimits.com and www.radarsignals.net. He may be reached at speed@speedinglimits.com or at (817) 291-2396.

Range Testing

Laser Gun	Away from the Laser Gun	Toward the Laser Gun
Digital Ally's Laser Ally™*	7,211 feet	7,191 feet
Kustom ProLaser III	5,705 feet	6,175 feet
Kustom ProLaser 4*	6,839 feet	6,057 feet
Kustom ProLite +	1,987 feet	1,642 feet
LTI UltraLyte LRB	3,211 feet	3,265 feet
LTI TruSpeed "S"*	2,287 feet	2,063 feet
Stalker Laser	5,142 feet	4,826 feet
Stalker LR*	6,716 feet	6,215 feet

*New Laser Gun

Wish List

I am constantly asked what I prefer in a laser gun. Here is my Wish List:

- It is best to show both speed and distance in the HUD.
- Laser guns should be built to withstand abuse and they must have robust construction. They should last!
- Laser guns should be weatherproof, not weather-resistant.
- Laser guns should be powered by rechargeable, off-the-shelf batteries.
- Laser guns should have few controls.
- Laser guns, in the future, must take pictures for evidence of speeding.
- Laser guns should have the capability to document that they were tested for accuracy before and after each shift and be able to provide evidence of testing for the court.
- Laser guns should be lightweight and easy to use.
- Buy a laser gun from those appearing on the CPL list of the IACP (**www.theiacp.org**).

For more information, contact:

1. Digital Ally, Inc.
(www.digitalallyinc.com)
Circle 5096 for More Information

2. Kustom Signals, Inc.
(www.kustomsignals.com)
Circle 5097 for More Information

3. Laser Technology, Inc.
(www.lasertech.com)
Circle 5098 for More Information

4. Stalker Radar
(www.stalkerradar.com)
Circle 5099 for More Information

Circle 5094 for More Information

Training to Avoid Handgun-ECD Weapon Confusion

Under stress, officers have previously mistaken their firearm for their TASER®, resulting in tragic consequences. What steps can be taken to prevent these types of misjudgments from taking place?

John G. Peters, Jr., Ph.D., CLS

Most law enforcement risk managers, administrators, and officers remember the tragic 2009 New Year's Day fatal shooting of Oscar Grant by then Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) Police Officer Johannes Mehserle at BART's Fruitvale Station located in Oakland, CA. Twenty-two-year-old Grant and others disembarked a train after it stopped in the Fruitvale Station at approximately 1:59 a.m. The BART Police Department (BPD) was notified about a disturbance on the train. Officer Mehserle was one of several officers dispatched to the Station where, moments after arrival, he accidentally shot Grant with his handgun after confusing it with his ECD (Electronic Control Device). Officer Mehserle had decided to deploy his ECD after Grant had placed his hand into his right trouser pocket and Officer Mehserle could not physically remove Grant's hand. Mr. Grant was shot in the back and later died. Officer Mehserle was criminally charged by the Alameda County (CA) District Attorney's Office with murder and voluntary manslaughter; a jury convicted him of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced him to jail. Officer Mehserle served his sentence, was released from jail, and remains the only officer to be criminally charged after confusing his handgun for an ECD.

There have been eight handgun-ECD weapon confusion cases in North America (seven U.S. incidents and one in Canada) when officers shot suspects with their handguns after confusingly drawing handguns instead of their TASER® ECDs.

General Findings

- In each incident, the officer was attempting to subdue a resisting subject;
- In each incident, the officer was wearing his (or her) full police uniform;
- In each incident, the officer only fired one shot;
- With two exceptions, each suspect was shot in the back (one suspect was shot in the stomach by an officer in Victoria, British Columbia; one suspect was shot in the chest by an officer in Madera, CA);
- None of the officers was aware they were holding a handgun instead of their ECD;
- Following the accidental shootings, all but two officers received administrative discipline; and
- Only Officer Mehserle was criminally charged and convicted for the accidental shooting.

Four Previous Handgun-ECD Confusion Incidents

Retired Oakland, CA, police officer turned investigator for the firm of Rains Lucia Sterns, PC, Robert McFarlane, identified and obtained information about seven handgun-ECD confusion cases which happened in North America before January 1, 2009. Mr. McFarlane's information was used during Officer Mehserle's criminal and civil court cases (at the latter, I served as an expert witness for Officer Mehserle). Mr. McFarland's investigation concluded that none of the officers was aware they were holding a handgun instead of an ECD at the time of the shooting. Four of these handgun-ECD cases will be analyzed and summarized, with suggestions made for avoiding handgun-ECD confusion.

April 24, 2008: Nicholasville, KY

• The incident occurred in the Nicholasville Police Department parking lot;

• A male suspect had punched another male in the face and knocked him to the ground;

• A police lieutenant intended to deploy his ECD at the suspect and then handcuff him;

• Instead of drawing his yellow TASER X26™, the lieutenant drew his handgun and fired one shot which traveled through the suspect's right side of his rib cage and into his liver;

• The ECD was being carried in a strong-hand, cross draw position by the lieutenant;

• The lieutenant was right-hand dominant;

• The lieutenant's handgun was being carried in a Safariland® Automatic Locking System (ALS®) Level III holster;

• The suspect survived the shooting;

• No criminal charges were filed against the lieutenant; and

• A $150,000 settlement followed a civil lawsuit.

June 22, 2006: Kitsap County, WA

• The incident occurred when a mentally ill man climbed a tree and remained there for hours;

• After a negotiator was able to get the mentally ill man within the range of an ECD, a deputy sheriff deployed an ECD, but it was ineffective;

• The negotiator told another deputy to deploy her ECD;

• Instead of drawing an ECD, a female deputy drew her handgun and fired, sending the bullet through the man's leg;

• The female deputy was carrying a black ECD;

• Just prior to shooting the suspect, one of the seven officers at the scene told the deputy, "No, not that one";

• The ECD and her handgun were positioned on the deputy's strong side;

• The suspect survived the shooting;

• No criminal charges were filed against the deputy; and

• There was a $100,000 civil settlement.

October 23, 2003: Somerset County, MD

• The incident occurred when a male deputy tried to arrest the suspect for an outstanding warrant and the male suspect fled on foot to the rear of a house;

• Fearing the suspect was going to arm himself, the deputy decided to deploy his black colored ECD;

• The deputy was carrying his ECD in a thigh holster;

• The deputy was carrying his handgun in an ALS Level III holster;

• When the deputy decided to deploy his ECD, he drew his handgun instead and fired one shot which struck the suspect in the back of the right elbow;

• No criminal charges were filed against the deputy and he was not formally disciplined; and

• Civil litigation was filed, but the outcome is unknown.

September 2, 2002: Rochester, MN

• The incident occurred outside near a patrol car;

• The male officer struggled with a male suspect while attempting to handcuff him;

• There were four officers present at the time of the shooting;

• During the confrontation, the officer placed his ECD in the cargo pocket of his pants or on the hood of a police vehicle;

• When the officer went to deploy his ECD, he removed his handgun from its holster and pressed it against the suspect's back and shot from a distance of less than one foot, but did not kill the suspect;

• No criminal charges were filed against the officer;

• No discipline was issued to the officer;

• The officer retired in January 2007; and

• Civil litigation was filed and settled for $960,000.

ECD carrying methods played a role in several of the handgun-ECD confusion incidents.

ECD Carrying and Policy Issues

It appears that ECD carrying methods played a role in several of the handgun-ECD confusion cases. For example, in the Minnesota handgun-ECD confusion shooting, officers were required to carry their ECDs in patrol vehicles and place their ECD into a cargo trouser pocket until arrival at an incident. In both the Washington and Maryland incidents, the officers carried their ECDs in a thigh holster below their service weapon. While this may support an argument for cross draw ECD carrying methods, recall that the Kentucky lieutenant carried his ECD in a strong-hand, cross draw position.

Deciding where and how to carry an ECD is usually based upon an agency's policy and training. Officers need to wear their ECDs in the same place every day when they are working.

See us at the IACP Conference – Booth #4744

Circle 5101 for More Information

Relocating an ECD from a strong-side carry to a cross draw carry to a strong-side thigh carry on a regular basis will only confuse the officer and may cause a handgun-ECD confusion shooting incident.

TASER International, Inc. warns in its May 1, 2010, product warnings to "**ALWAYS** follow your agency's equipment carrying and holstering location guidance and training regarding distinguishing between handguns, other weapons, and ECDs." Generally, manufacturers of police equipment do not set policy for law enforcement agencies; therefore, make policy decisions a command staff responsibility, often with input coming from agency trainers who teach the subject. Policy about ECD holster location appears to have played a significant role in the tragic BART shooting.

During the 22 days between his initial training and the shooting of Oscar Grant, Officer Mehserle testified he could only carry the ECD holster which was available which meant that, on some occasions, he would carry it for dominate side draw, or for "cross draw on your weak hand." On those days when an ECD was not available, Officer Mehserle did not carry one. The lack of issuing every BART officer an ECD was based upon budget constraints and the BPD TASER policy.

Specifically, the BPD policy and practice on January 1, 2009, stated that "only the department's four TASER instructors will be allowed to carry the weapon." The BPD policy and practice also directed officers that there would be "one TASER per beat," and that "officers hand off TASER and holster."

Officer Mehserle testified that, from his date of ECD user-level training on December 10, 2008, until his handgun-ECD confusion shooting incident on January 1, 2009, he had only carried an ECD approximately 60% of the time while working

ECD drawing and reholstering should mirror entry-level firearms training.

because BART had not issued him an ECD. Of equal or more significance, Officer Mehserle used whatever holster was given to him with the ECD by other officers coming off their shifts. If it was for a left-handed user, that is the holster he had to use. If it was set up for a cross draw, that might be what he carried the next time – if he had an opportunity to carry an ECD while working. Officer Mehserle testified that he had carried ECDs different ways on different nights, but had only drawn it one time prior to this event. This proved to be a recipe for disaster. The frequency of drawing an ECD in training may also be a factor in handgun-ECD confusion incidents.

ECD Drawing Frequency in Training

Currently, there is no minimum number of ECD draws required during an ECD training program, but, possibly, ECD drawing and reholstering should mirror entry-level firearms training to help establish both proficiency and motor retention. BPD Sergeant Paul Garcia testified that, over the course of two days of firearms training, the learners will fire "approximately somewhere over 400 rounds of handgun ammunition and approximately 50 rounds of shotgun ammunition." In contrast, the BPD ECD user-level training required learners to only fire one live cartridge.

Napa Valley (CA) College firearms instructor David Clark testified that learners are taught a seven step program when being instructed on how to draw, present, aim, and fire a handgun. Mr. Clark estimated that a learner would pull his (or her) weapon from its holster "maybe 500" times, because it takes between 2000 and 5000 draws to obtain motor memory (also known as muscle memory).

In contrast, BART ECD instructor Officer Lehman testified that, in the December 2008 ECD user-level training program, learners would draw the ECD from a holster "roughly between 10 and 15" times during the static phase of their training. The static drills were shown to have taken approximately 60 minutes, with learners drawing their ECDs from their holsters between 10 and 15 times. None of these static drills included stressful conditions; they were simply learning how to draw the ECD from the holster.

Unlike Officer Mehserle's firearms training program, he was not issued an ECD, so he couldn't practice drawing it from its holster at home, or practice drawing from its holster after the training program. The only ECD drawing practice Officer Mehserle had was during the one hour and 50 minute static and practice exam which was not enough practice time to effectively develop motor memory to avoid handgun-ECD confusion.

Yet another contrast between the two training programs was the use of *stress inoculation*. Sgt. Garcia defined this concept as "getting someone accustomed to operating under stress, so this way, hopefully, you can reduce the traumatic effect if it does, in fact, happen in real life." In short, the training should be as realistic to a real-life situation as possible. The BPD did not conduct reality-based training in 2007 – the first year that Officer Mehserle worked for the BPD – or in 2008. Therefore, the ECD user-level training program did not put learners under stress when drawing or using their ECD. What about your agency's training program?

Remember: Practice *does not* make perfect. **Only perfect practice makes perfect.**

With budgetary constraints affecting law enforcement agencies across North America, it is tempting to reduce training and training time. Don't do it in high-risk subjects (e.g., defensive tactics, handcuffing, firearms, ECDs, etc.). The monies saved may pale in comparison to the monies spent on defending a handgun-ECD confusion shooting, not to mention the potentially significant cost of an adverse jury verdict against the agency.

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Circle 5102 for More Information

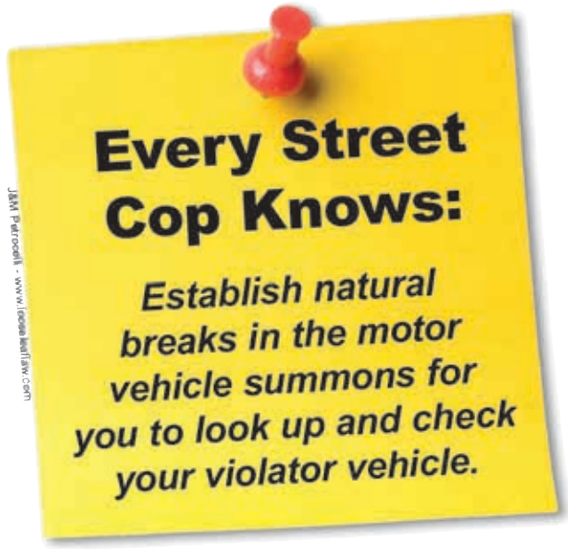
ECD Topics and Training Time

Learning is often a function of exposure time to the subject and the quality of instruction. ECD training and competency are no different. ECD trainers must review the amount of topics covered during an ECD user-level training program and compare the time spent in teaching information versus developing psychomotor skills (e.g., drawing the ECD, firing the ECD, etc.). Such an analysis may highlight both topic and/or time deficiencies.

For example, a content analysis of the BART ECD user-level "Electronic Weapons Operator Course Hourly Schedule" topical outline identified **39 categories** (some of which included many subjects) of topics and activities to be completed during the proposed six hour training program. However, upon closer examination, there were several categories and activities which were more procedural than substantive instruction about ECD operation. Specifically, 35 minutes was devoted to taking a written test; 40 minutes focused upon introductions, registration, the issuing of BPD ECD policy, POST roster, liability waiver, safety guidelines, announcements, first-aid procedures, and instructions for emergency procedures – little, if any, about ECD operations and weapon confusion; and, since there were no breaks included in the hourly timeline, it was reasonable to include 30 minutes for total break time.

After subtracting these procedural "categories" from the proposed six hour (360 minutes) ECD training topical outline, the remaining time was 4.25 hours (360 minutes – [35 minutes + 30 minutes + 40 minutes]). If the static and practical scenarios are subtracted (60 minutes and 50 minutes, respectively), only 2.41 hours remained for classroom instruction. During these 2.41 hours, the BART's ECD instructor presented 244 TASER ECD Version 14 PowerPoint® slides, plus an additional ten "BART PD TASER Policy" slides. This time frame required the instructor to present 254 slides in 2.41 hours (145 minutes), or 1.75 slides per minute (254 slides/145 minutes) covering the 28 categories of substantive presentation. This information would be labeled as classroom lecture and be included in the cognitive domain.

Although the BART ECD training program contained information about how to operate an ECD, it contained little about firearms-ECD confusion. A content analysis of the ECD user-level PowerPoint which was reportedly used by ECD instructor Lehman showed that it only contained **one slide** about the potential for confusing a firearm with an ECD. This slide had to be covered in detail and thoroughly discussed, including the "instructor notes warning" about three separate firearms-ECD confusion incidents. Agencies and trainers need to ask themselves if conducting training at lightning speed is sufficient to educate the learner about the concepts and critical issues noted on the many slides, or is it merely a checkmark in a training box? Oftentimes, and



depending upon the topic being presented, it will take more than one minute to adequately discuss the information shown on a slide.

Several authors of instructional design texts (e.g., Dick, Carey, and Carey, 2001; Lefrancois, 2000) note that psychomotor skill characteristics generally require the learner to execute muscular actions (with or without equipment) to achieve special results. Version 14 ECD User-level Certification Courses required learners to demonstrate several psychomotor skills, including, but not limited to, an aiming drill, a first firing drill, a live fire drill, and a reloading drill. However, the time frame allocated to learners in the BPD ECD user-level training program failed to provide the repetition necessary to develop motor memory. Lefrancois noted, "Motor skills are the variety of organized, sequential activities that involve the use of muscles. They include all complex behaviors that require an organized pattern of controlled muscular movements."

ECD Instructor Action Areas

ECD instructors must get answers to the following questions, so they can identify, and then evaluate, potential high-risk problems with their ECD training program:

- What is the frequency required of ECD user-level learners to draw their ECDs during a training program (i.e., similar to the entry-level firearms program)?
- What is the frequency required of ECD user-level learners to fire their ECDs during a training program (i.e., similar to the entry-level firearms program)?
- What information is contained in the ECD user-level training program which can be eliminated (e.g., product history)?
- What training information is taught to learners about handgun-ECD confusion?
- How many high stress scenarios designed for handgun-ECD confusion is included in the training program?
- Are there enough high stress training scenarios included in the training program?

Summary

Handgun-ECD confusion incidents are tragic for all who are involved in them. One initial issue is how governmental entity administrators and instructors train their officers to avoid and/or minimize handgun-ECD confusion incidents. One possible way is to review existing training topics and lesson plans. Learning to operate the ECD is important, but not at the expense of learning to apply it in high stress situations.

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See us at COPSWest – Booth #1030

Circle 5103 for More Information

In addition, governmental entities are strongly encouraged to add their ECD policies and procedures about carry location to the recommended training slides which will increase not only the topics presented, but also the time needed to educate the learners. Manufacturer product warnings must also be included in the training. In short, more time may be needed to train officers.

Another possible way to minimize and/or avoid weapon confusion incidents is through policy and procedure. Those governmental entities which authorize officers to carry ECDs must develop a specific policy and procedure about carrying ECDs (e.g., only cross draw carrying methods are permitted; or all officers will draw and use ECDs with their weak hands).

With new generations of ECDs being developed, ECD manufacturers often add more information to brand specific ECD training programs. Governmental entities and ECD trainers must re-examine their lesson plans and how long it will take to adequately cover the information. Some information may be marketing oriented or "nice" to know which could be excluded from the instruction. However, information which is necessary and "needed" to know must receive top priority and this includes drawing and firing the ECD.

Scenario-based training which includes high stress situations where an officer could accidentally

confuse his (or her) ECD with a handgun must be developed and incorporated into all ECD training programs. Governmental entities, law enforcement administrators, and others should not be interested in marketing products for manufacturers. Rather, they must be concerned about adequately training their employees about ECDs, so officers will know how to safely draw their ECD when called upon in high stress situations. If the ECD training program is top-heavy with lecture and not balanced with practical skills, such as drawing and firing the ECD, then it is possibly time to realign the training to increase officer safety and confidence; to increase suspect safety; and to eliminate and/or minimize handgun-ECD confusion.

Lastly, thinking futuristically, it is fair to predict that ECD training will become a primary focus of plaintiff's lawsuits. While ECD manufacturer product warnings have improved over the recent years, manufacturers are also quick to distance themselves from agency training programs. Hence, the agency training program content, testing, etc. will be the responsibility of the governmental entity and its trainers. P&SN

About the Author: John G. Peters, Jr., Ph.D., CLS, serves as President and Chief Learning Officer of the internationally recognized training firm, Institute for the Prevention of In-Custody Deaths, Inc. in Henderson, NV. An experienced instructional designer, he most recently completed the requirements for the "Designated Subjects Vocational Educational Teaching Credentials" requirements at California State University, San Bernardino – Palm Desert Campus. Dr. Peters has been judicially qualified in federal, state, and international courts as an expert witness and is also an adjunct faculty at the University of Phoenix. He can be reached at www.ipicd.com.

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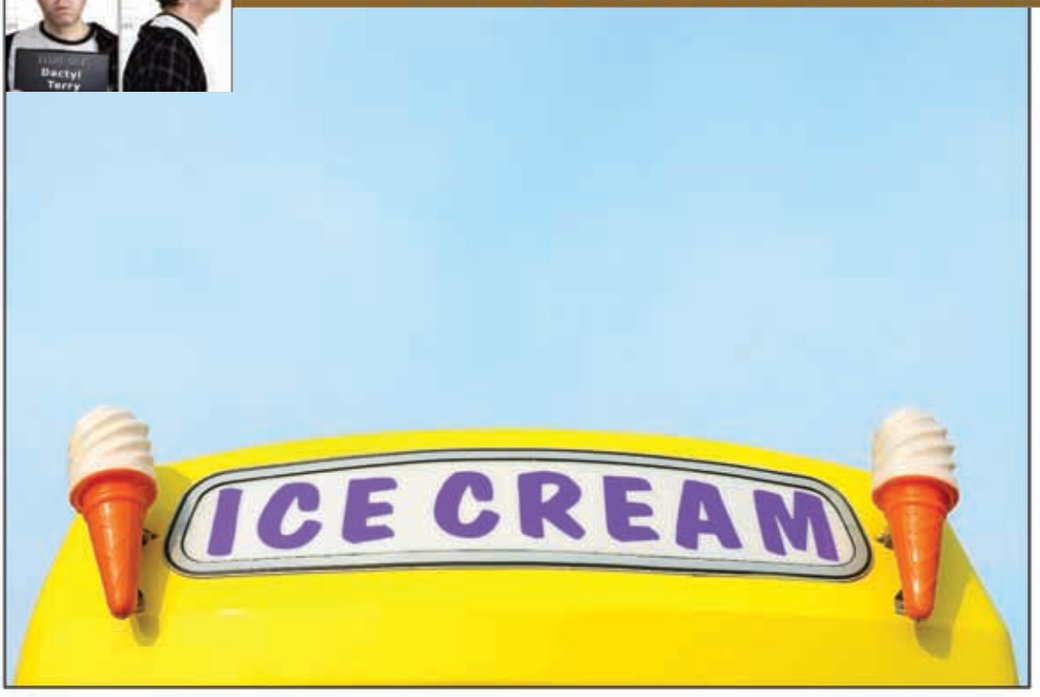
Circle 5105 for More Information

In Search of Intelligent Life



James L. McClinton, Ph.D

THIS IS WHY THEY ARE NOT CALLED "GOOD HUMOR MEN" IN GREAT BRITAIN!

Fights between rival gangs are common, but what about fights between rival ice cream vans? Two ice cream slingers got into a heated argument in Blackburn, England, which resulted in a broken window, a dented van, and a seriously surreal video. An onlooker captured the squabble on video from an upstairs apartment window. Here's the scoop: One driver works for Mr. Yummy. The other sells Mr. Whippy products. The fight began when a young person in the market for an ice cream cone approached one of the vendors. She ordered a cone and the proprietor of the other company yelled that he could sell an identical cone to the customer at a lower price – and that's where it got messy. Mr. Yummy was then caught on video breaking the window of Mr. Whippy's truck. Mr. Whippy then drove his truck into Mr. Yummy's. He told officers he didn't intend to do it and was suffering a panic attack. *(When the vendors asked the customers, "plain or nuts?" they were talking about themselves and not ice cream bars!)*

This is why employee background checks should include an intellectual profile!... A police cruiser needed some repairs so it was taken to a local MAACO shop in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. While it was there, the dispatcher received a call over the radio saying, "19th and Derry, I got a shooting! Backup, backup!" Police were dispatched to the location and they were surprised to find it was the location of the body shop where the cruiser was being repaired. It turns out that one of the employees thought it would be fun to broadcast a "fake" emergency call over the police radio, not realizing the radio was actually turned on. Yes, this was without a doubt, a stupid idea – and for more than one reason. Police quickly discovered that the employee was also wanted for numerous warrants, including parole violation. *(It seems our friend was either blind or not smart enough to recognize that little red light – right next to the "ON/OFF" button!)*

The "one that got away" didn't get quite far enough "away"!... A man was on probation for armed robbery in Multnomah County, Oregon. The conditions of his probation included mandatory attendance at a drug treatment program, monthly court appearances and regular check-ins with his probation officer. Such an arduous schedule quickly became too much for our scofflaw and he quit showing up. This was apparently a little too much for the man and he eventually stopped meeting his obligations. As bad as that was, it then got worse. He started taunting his parole officer, posting challenges on his Facebook page to "catch me if you can" and calling himself "the one that got away." He eventually learned that it's never a good idea to challenge a parole officer. He started to follow the probationer's Facebook page closely and noticed in a subsequent post he mentioned, "I'm in Alabama." And, when he posted a picture of his girlfriend's pregnant belly, along with her sonogram, he noticed the name of the hospital was shown clearly on the sonogram. Capture was easy after that and he's now back in Oregon. *(I can't wait to see what this simpleton posts on his Facebook page next – if he ever gets access to it!)*

As a wise man once pointed out, "politics" is derived from the word "poly," meaning "many," and the word "ticks," meaning "blood sucking parasites"... A man who is a Democrat and the 135th Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, along with another man who is a Republican and the 136th Speaker, know each other well. The good news is that they will get the chance to extend their relationship. The bad news is that it will happen because both of them have been sentenced to time at the Camp Hill Prison for corruption in separate cases. Both men are serving at least 30 months and, when the Republican, the first one in, heard that the Democrat was sentenced to the same prison, he commented he liked that he got to share a cell with him. But, the Democrat replied, "I don't think we pick who we room with here." But, sure enough, the Democrat was given a choice: He could bunk with the Republican or with another man – a jailbird who happened to be his own chief of staff whose testimony helped convict him. The Democrat chose the Republican as his cell mate. *(Now, let's see if these prison roommates do to each other what they had done to their former constituents all those years!)*

Didn't I see this in a movie?... A man tried to rob a Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse store in Kissimmee, Florida, by holding a pair of scissors to a clerk's throat. But, the clerk, who was assisted by customers in the store, got the upper hand on the robber and chased him out of the store and across the street where he hopped over a brick wall. That proved to be yet another stupid move because he stood out at the resort which was located on the other side of the wall. The robber was standing in the midst of naked people who were at the clothing optional resort. The 20-year-old robber allegedly pulled a knife when surrounded by responding sheriff's deputies who arrested him at gunpoint. The robber now faces at least ten felony charges, plus a charge of being a fugitive after fleeing charges relating to an earlier robbery. *(This would have been a male fantasy come true...except for the part about the armed deputies!)*

Does the* Guinness World Book of Records *have a special category just for subhuman species?... A man recently arrived in Nashville, Tennessee, and stepped off a Greyhound bus for a nine hour layover. Police say the man then committed no less than 11 felonies during that time, one after another, with more charges still possible. Among his alleged crimes: shooting up a restaurant and setting it on fire; robbing four people at a bar; carjacking; breaking into a law office and defecating on a desk; trolling hotel rooms seeking theft opportunities; and stealing a taxicab and robbing the driver. A police sergeant said, "I've never seen

anything like this before." He was finally captured at Opryland where he had hidden by submerging himself in water up to his nose. *(I can't think of a better place than Nashville, 'cuz this boy sure sounds like one of "them there outlaws" they like to sing about!)*

Our rhyming judge needs to add this line to his little poem, "I've got no brain and I'm truly insane!"... The husband of a female bailiff got extremely upset when a Michigan appeals court judge sent the bailiff a shirtless photo of himself. The judge told a reporter for a Detroit TV station, "Hot dog, yep, that's me. I've got no shame in my game. I'm in no more clothes than I'll be at the 'Y' this afternoon when I swim my mile." The furious husband said he would pursue a judicial commission complaint against the judge. *(Excuse me, Your "Honor," but wouldn't such behavior get a normal citizen arrested?)*

"I'm sorry, did you say your 'dope was no good' or that you're a 'no good dope'"?... In Salisbury, North Carolina, a man got upset because he felt the crack cocaine he had purchased from his dealer was of poor quality. The "customer" did what any disappointed shopper would do – he called his dealer at 4:00 a.m. to complain...well, at least he thought he was calling his drug dealer. Unfortunately, he dialed the number of a Rowan County sheriff's deputy. The deputy listened politely to the disgruntled customer's complaints and then arranged to meet him in a parking lot to rectify the situation. When the customer stepped out of the car to go talk to the deputy, a rock of crack cocaine fell out of his pants and he quickly found himself in the backseat of the deputy's vehicle. *(Well, next time, try dialing 1-800-BAD-DOPE instead of 1-800-THE-COPS!)*

Here's a man who was never too concerned about identity theft – I wonder if he has his Social Security number tattooed on his forehead?... In Twin Falls, Idaho, a 19-year-old man became the most recent person arrested while trying to avoid police by giving a fake name (Velesco). There seemed to be no logic behind the brilliant gesture because the man has his real name (the very name cited on the outstanding warrants) tattooed in plain sight on his forearm. *(This genius probably couldn't remember how to spell his real name and had to use his tattoo as a reminder!)*

If only she would have applied the ketchup <u>after</u> she stuffed the hash browns in her drawers!... At the University of Georgia, a 19-year-old member of the school's women's soccer team was charged with theft. The woman wanted to save herself the great expense of $1.06 she should have paid in a dormitory cafeteria line and stuffed a serving of hash browns down her pants. But, she then decided she didn't want hash browns after all and was seen trying to remove the hash browns from inside her pants when she was confronted by authorities. *(I'm glad she likes fried potatoes because I suspect the only thing she's qualified to do is ask customers, "Do you want fries with that?")*

New Technology

New Line of Reloading Supplies

Brownells is now offering an expansive line of reloading supplies, all backed by their unconditional lifetime guarantee. The **Brownells Reloading** line features dies, presses and tools from RCBS®, Lee Precision, Lyman, Redding, Sinclair International, and components from major manufacturers including Hornady®, Nosler®, Sierra, Hodgdon®, Remington®, Winchester®, and others.

Circle 5108 for More Information

New Duffel

Available in black and khaki-foliage, the **Growler™ Load-Out Duffel**, from Maxpedition, has an eye pleasing exterior and a seemingly compact cylindrical profile. Its surprisingly spacious two-way gusset allows for a variety of ways to organize its internal spaces, enabling you to conceal larger than expected items.

Circle 5109 for More Information

New Night Vision Camera System

The **MONOCAM™**, from Morovision Night Vision, Inc., is a night vision camera system which converts a PVS-14 or MV-14 type night vision monocular into a lightweight, easy to use digital night vision surveillance and security camera. Originally designed for rugged military use, the waterproof, freezeproof, shockproof and dustproof **MONOCAM™** Night Vision Camera Adapter Kit combines the latest developments in digital camera technology with the best in U.S. manufactured night vision technology.

Circle 5110 for More Information

New Handheld Thermal Camera

FLIR Systems, Inc. recently introduced the addition of the smaller **LS-Series** (LS32 and LS64 models) to its handheld H-Series Monocular and Bi-Ocular Thermal Camera line for law enforcement. The more affordable **LS-Series** imagers see in total darkness; through smoke, dust, light fog and light foliage; in any lighting conditions; and at any time of the day or night. Starting at less than $3500, the **LS-Series** imagers provide crisp thermal video; push-button features including zoom, polarity switching and viewfinder brightness; a sealed eyepiece; diopter adjustments; and resolution options.

Circle 5111 for More Information

New Tactical Robot

Simulator Systems International has introduced the **Python HTR Generation III** robot designed for tactical/HAZMAT applications. This rugged robot has motorized shape-changing tracks which aid in stair climbing and traversing obstacles; mesh communications allow flicker-free video transmission (over 4300 foot LOS with one relay hop) and the ability to bounce signals around buildings, etc. The **Python HTR Generation III** offers high torque 48 VDC gear head motors and a heavy-duty quick change battery pack for strength and endurance.

Circle 5112 for More Information

New Smart Device Adapter

US Night Vision Corporation recently unveiled their **new iTelligent™ iPad® Night Vision and Optics Adapter** (patent pending). This precision-made case/adapter will allow new iPad users to connect their iPad to a wide variety of electro-optical (night vision), thermal (infrared), and daytime optics, such as laser range finders, long-range spotting scopes, binoculars and commercial 37mm lenses.

Circle 5113 for More Information

New Pocket Organizer

The **Beefy™ Pocket Organizer**, Maxpedition's newest and largest organizer, can be dropped in or attached to your backpack or bag. Its full clamshell opening reveals a spacious main compartment containing 15 elastic dividers and two large slip and zipper pockets. It is ideal for keeping small tools, first-aid supplies, toiletries and more. It's available in black, OD green, khaki and foliage.

Circle 5114 for More Information

New Line of Premium Gun Cases

TKL Outdoors® introduces the **VECTRA® Case**, the ultimate in impact and thermal protection for storing or transporting firearms. Weighing less than ten pounds, the **VECTRA** cases are easy to carry and transport and are covered by their 24/7® lifetime limited warranty.

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All Weather Playing Cards

Maxpedition's **Tactical Field Deck All Weather Playing Cards** are a welcome addition to any travel checklist. Printed on all weather 0.31mm PVC, this 52 card poker deck features the entire line of Maxpedition characters: Max, Rocky, Damo, Lla and the Shell Squad.

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New Windshield Interior Lightbar

Code 3®, Inc.'s **SuperVisor® U™**, a new version of its front windshield interior light, is sleekly designed to fit the windshield curves and angles of most vehicles. It reduces and, in most cases, prevents flashback light from distracting the driver. The adjustable side shield light blocking plates have been designed specifically to block out flashback light from the sides.

Designed with the latest Torus™ LED technology, the **SuperVisor U** has bright, efficient LEDs: independent flashing light heads which go from stealth to a wealth of light in an instant.

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MILO 4.4 with New Microsoft® Kinect Functionality

IES Interactive Training announced a new software refresh of its leading simulation and training platform, **MILO 4.4**, featuring new Microsoft Kinect options and functionality.

With the MS Kinect feature enabled, IES's **MILO** training simulators can now detect and respond to a variety of trainee verbal and nonverbal actions, including baton swings; punches, strikes and kicks; defensive and offensive movements and positions; customized poses and gestures; tactical movement and positions; and speech and verbal commands.

In addition, **MILO 4.4** with Kinect can track trainee movement while in graphics firearms drills and skill builder exercises to provide real-time 3-D angle adjustments with camera view to allow innovative points of view, such as corner clearing training in CQM and CQB exercises.

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5040	5041	5042	5043	5044	5045	5046	5047	5048	5049
5050	5051	5052	5053	5054	5055	5056	5057	5058	5059
5060	5061	5062	5063	5064	5065	5066	5067	5068	5069
5070	5071	5072	5073	5074	5075	5076	5077	5078	5079
5080	5081	5082	5083	5084	5085	5086	5087	5088	5089
5090	5091	5092	5093	5094	5095	5096	5097	5098	5099
5100	5101	5102	5103	5104	5105	5106	5107	5108	5109
5110	5111	5112	5113	5114	5115	5116	5117	5118	5119
5120	5121	5122	5123	5124	5125	5126	5127	5128	5129
5130	5131	5132	5133	5134	5135	5136	5137	5138	5139
5140	5141	5142	5143	5144	5145	5146	5147	5148	5149
5150	5151	5152	5153	5154	5155	5156	5157	5158	5159
5160	5161	5162	5163	5164	5165	5166	5167	5168	5169
5170	5171	5172	5173	5174	5175	5176	5177	5178	5179
5180	5181	5182	5183	5184	5185	5186	5187	5188	5189
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5086...CME Electronics	51	5023...Pearce Grip, Inc.	12
5078...California Coast University	47	5064...PIPS Technology, Inc.	38
5019...Cellebrite USA	9	5059...PoliceOne Academy	34
5037...Combined Systems, Inc.	19	5094...Pugs Cabinet Systems	57
5063...Copeland Engineering, Inc.	37	5105...QuiqLite	62
5066...Copeland Engineering, Inc.	39	5001...RAM Mounting Systems	3
5093...dB Innovations LLC	56	5049...Setina Mfg. Co., Inc.	28
5079...DeSantis Gunhide	48	5068...SHOT Show 2013	40
5092...Digital Ally, Inc.	55	5084...Simulator Systems Intl.	50
5070...Ear Phone Connection, Inc.	42	5090...Smith & Warren	54
5102...Enforsys, Inc.	60	5091...Speed Measurement Labs, Inc.	54
5000...Fairleigh Dickinson Univ.	Cover 2	5058...Steck Manufacturing Co., Inc.	33
5018...Farber Specialty Vehicles, Inc.	8	5085...TKL Outdoors	51
5020...Federal Signal Corp.	10	5069...TacView, Inc.	41
5038...Fire Hooks Unlimited, Inc.	20	5027...TerraLUX	16
5060...4N6XPRT Systems	35	5053...Tremco Police Products	30
5057...Havis, Inc.	33	5025...Tufloc	14
5042...Humane Restraint Co., Inc.	22	5122...U.S. Night Vision Corp.	Cover 4
5021...IES Interactive Training, Inc.	11	5040...University of Phoenix	21
5073...IPICD, Inc.	44	5083...University of WI-Platteville	50
5065...JAMAR Technologies, Inc.	39	5081...WaterShed	49
5088...Laser Technology, Inc.	52	5104...XS Sight Systems	62
5071...Lawmen Supply Co.	43	5036...Ziegel Engineering	18

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